Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-098
Monday
21 May 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-098 21 May 1990

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Secret' Plan To Make Syria Attend Summit *[AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 18 May]* 1
Tripartite Committee on Lebanon Concludes Meeting *[SPA]* 1
Arab League's Klibi Leaves for Baghdad Meeting 1
Carries al-Asad Invitation *[Tunis Radio]* 1
Arrives in Baghdad *[INA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to Shootings in Israel 1
Abu-Sharif on 'Soldiers' Attack *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Islamic Jihad Vows Revenge *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
'Arafat Threatens Peace Rethink *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
'Sources' Cited on Death Toll *[MENA]* 2
Note Holds U.S. 'Responsible' *[WAKH]* 2
'Arafat Calls for Sanctions *[INA]* 3
U.S. Mentioned in 'Massacres' *[Tunis Radio]* 3
Al-'Asifah Forces Claim Anti-Israeli Operation *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
Bhutto Discusses Palestinian Issue With 'Arafat *[MENA]* 3
Mandela Meets With 'Arafat in Cairo 20 May *[MENA]* 4
'Arafat Sends Message to Sweden's Andersson *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
Bal'awi Confers With French Officials in Paris *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 19 May]* 4
Khalid Al-Hasan on Arab Summit, U.S. Policies *[AL-WATAN 17 May]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Reaction to Israeli Shooting Incident Reported 6
'Abd-al-Majid Comments *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Group Threatens Israelis *[RFL]* 6
President Confers With 'Arafat, Delegation *[MENA]* 6
Reportage on Visit by Pakistani Prime Minister 6
Bhutto Arrives 20 May *[MENA]* 6
Discusses Kashmir, Other Issues *[MENA]* 6
Departs for Tripoli *[MENA]* 6
Islamabad on News Conference *[Islamabad Radio]* 6
ANC Leader Mandela Ends Visit to Cairo *[MENA]* 7
'Abd-al-Majid on Mubarak's Tour, Summit Agenda *[MENA]* 7

Libya

Impasse Continues Over Territory, Convoy 8
'Sources' on Failed Talks *[AFP]* 8
Chad Guilty of 'Piracy' *[JANA]* 8
Foreign Minister on Convoy *[BBC]* 8

Ethiopia Denies Libyan Support of Opposition 8
Mandela Makes Statement to Media in Tripoli *[JANA]* 8
Further on News Conference *[JANA]* 9
African Conference Resolution Thanks Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 10

Sudan

Egyptian Envoy Says Peace Efforts Continue *[SUNA]* 10
Minister Says 'Leftists' Seek To Harm Egypt Ties *[SUNA]* 10
RCC Member Says Rebels Withdrawn From Region *[SUNA]* 10
Al-Bashir Blames Dissolved Parties for Problems *[SUNA]* 10
Committee To Propose New Political Organization *[AFP]* 11
Official Reports on Foreign Loans, Repayments *[SUNA]* 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Soviet Ground Forces Chief Meets Army Leaders *[Kuwait Radio]* 12

Saudi Arabia

'Authoritative Source' Condemns Gaza Shooting *[SPA]* 12

Yemen Arab Republic

South Yemen Army Units Begin Arriving in Sanaa *[Sanaa Radio]* 12

IRAQ

Further Reportage on Arab Summit Preparations 13
Saddam Agrees To Invite Syria *[INA]* 13
'Unified Strategic' Stand Urged *[INA]* 13
Saddam Receives Soviet Ambassador, Verbal Message *[INA]* 13
UN's Goulding Departs After 4-Day Visit *[INA]* 13

ISRAEL

Reportage on Rishon Leziyyon Shootings 14
Seven Killed, Seven Injured *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Shamir Condemns Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Netanyahu, Olmert React *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Disturbances Erupt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Palestinian 'Manifesto' Issued *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
'Personal Motives' Indicated *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Mordekhay Issues Warning *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Goren: No Organization Involved *[Tel Aviv TV]* 15
Eighth Fatality Noted *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 16
Gaza Notables Refuse Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Shomron Warns Against Reaction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Vilna'i: Gaza 'Under Control' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
'Escalation' of Intifadah Urged *[Jerusalem Rado]* 18
Pazner Confirms Pledge Not To Attack Arabs First *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Egypt Given 'Assurances' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Shamir on What Was 'Promised' *[Jerusalem TV]* 19
Media Adviser: Bush 'Misinterpreted' Shamir *['AL-HAMISHMAR 20 May]* 19
Security Sources: 'No Concrete' POW Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Goren Says Decision To Reopen Universities Stands *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility for Stabbing *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 20

JORDAN

Armed Men Attack French Tourists in Amman 21
10 Casualties Reported *[Paris Radio]* 21
One Attacker Apprehended *[Amman Radio]* 21
Attacker Arrested *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 21
Source Condemns Rishon Leziyyon Shootings 21
'Ugly, Racist Crime' *[Amman Radio]* 21
Badran Denounces 'Massacre' *[Amman TV]* 21
MENA Reports Demonstration 22
Joint Economic Projects Discussed With Pakistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 22

LEBANON

Israelis Fire at Finnish Troops, Injure One *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 23
Reaction to Rishon Leziyyon Shootings 23
Islamic Jihad *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 23
Hizballah Statement *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 23
Hizballah Protest March *[Tehran Radio]* 23
Israeli Warplanes Overfly Sidon, Camps 20 May *[RFL]* 23
Clashes Reported; Source Denies Amal Gains *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 23
Junblatt on Soviet Policy, Austerity, Borders *[VOM]* 24
Birri Says U.S. Stand on Eastern Area 'Vague' *[Voice of National Resistance]* 24
AL-SAFIR Describes U.S. Message on Summit *[VOM]* 24

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Iraqi President's Envoy *[Damascus Radio]* 25
'Arafat Adviser Al-Hasan Arrives in Damascus *[Muscat Radio]* 25
Minister Says Hostage Release Effort To Continue *[Damascus Radio]* 25
Reciprocity To Apply for UK Journalists' Visas *[Damascus Radio]* 25
Vice President Interviewed on Arab Ties, Egypt *[WAKH]* 26
Al-Shar' Receives UN Fact-Finding Mission *[Damascus Radio]* 26
Spokesman Says Bhutto Visit 'Very Successful' *[Islamabad Radio]* 26
Gid'onim Special Force Behind 20 May 'Massacre' *[Damascus Radio]* 26
TISHRIN Ridicules Israeli Spokesman Remarks *[SANA]* 27
'Serious, Effective' Response to Emigration Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 27
TISHRIN Urges 'Further Consultations' on Summit *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Commentary on Al-Asad's Call for 'Understanding' *[Damascus Radio]* 28

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Planes Allegedly Bomb Pakistani Territory *[AFP]* 29
Relief Agency Suffers Second Attack 18 May *[AFP]* 29
New Prime Minister Vows To Strengthen Military *[AFP]* 29
Afghan Resistance Statement Criticizes Agha Khan *[AFP]* 30
Rabbani on Closure of Mujahidin Offices in Quetta *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 15 May]* 30
People Said 'Optimistically' Awaiting Assembly *[BAKHTAR]* 31
Two Killed in Missile Barrage on Kabul City *[Kabul Radio]* 31
Two Diplomats Wounded in Rocket Attack on Kabul *[AFP]* 32

Bangladesh

Ershad Reportedly To Run for Second Term *[AFP]* 32
Information Minister Leaves for Thailand, Britain *[Dhaka International]* 32

India

Kashmir Muslim Leader Killed; Crisis Meeting Held *[AFP]* 32
Pakistani 'Subversives' Infiltrate; Three Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Rajiv Gandhi's Remarks on Kashmir Reported *[BBC]* 33
Advani Decries Gandhi Statement Against Government *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Singh Defends Policy on Kashmir, Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Says Pakistan Lacks Consistency *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Minister Admits Differences With Kashmir Governor *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Operation Launched Against Pakistani Infiltrators *[Delhi Radio]* 34
Gujral Rejects Pakistani Interference *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Minister for Kashmir Affairs To Visit Cairo *[AFP]* 35
Kashmir Schools Reopen; Situation 'Peaceful' *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Officials Consider Gates Mission, Summit Prospects *[BBC]* 35
'Commando Battalions' To Curb Punjab Terrorism *[Delhi Radio]* 36
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Arrives 21 May *[Delhi Radio]* 36

Iran

'Framework' for Hostages Release Said Possible *[Tehran Radio]* 36
More on Hostage Release, Western Reciprocation *[IRNA]* 36
Talks With Iraq Possible in Pakistan *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 36
Hizballah's Al-Tufayli, Leaders Visit Tehran 37
Confer With Velayati *[Tehran TV]* 37
Meet Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Present Report to Yazdi *[IRNA]* 37
'Direct, Indirect' Talks Held With Riyadh *[IRNA]* 37
Islamic Guidance Minister on Hajj Pilgrimage *[Tehran Radio]* 38
International Hajj Seminars Condemn Saudi Actions *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Foreign Ministry Assails Saudi Move on Hajj *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Ministry Spokesman on 'Massacre' of Palestinians *[Tehran Radio]* 39
ETTELA'AT Views Criticism of Mohajerani *[30 Apr]* 40
ETTELA'AT Stand on Mohajerani Said 'Mistake' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 1 May]* 41
Further Criticism of Mohajerani *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 2 May]* 42
ABRAR Comments on Mohajerani Article *[6 May]* 42
Musavi-Ardebili Leads Tehran Friday Prayers *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Majles Approves Clauses of Bill on Khomeyni Works *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Ends Debate on Tampering Law *[IRNA]* 44
Paper Decries 'Politically Bankrupt Elements' *[IRNA]* 44
Accuses 'Liberals' of Plotting With U.S. *[AFP]* 45
Defense Industries To Convert to Civilian Use *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Subsidies Announced for Essential Goods *[Tehran Radio]* 45
President on Development of Telecommunications *[Tehran Radio]* 45
*Paper 'Reveals' Role of Palestinians in Revolution *[London KEYHAN 26 Apr]* 46
*Two New Cities Of 300,000 People Created *[KEYHAN 19 Apr]* 48
*Meshkini: 'Economic Terrorists' Will Hang *[KEYHAN 14 Apr]* 49
*IRI Largest Importer of Goods From Dubayy *[London KEYHAN 3 May]* 49
*All 1959-1966 Birth Certificates Reissued *[London KEYHAN 3 May]* 50
*Afghans Reportedly Involved in Drug Smuggling *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 2 May]* 50
*Non-Oil Exports Pass $1.1 Billion Mark *[KEYHAN-E HAVAI 2 May]* 51
*New Appointments Announced 2 May *[KEYHAN-E HAVAI 2 May]* 51

Nepal & Bhutan

King Announces Amnesty for Political Prisoners *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Party Leaders Press for New Constitution *[AFP]* 52
Ganesh Man Singh Speaks to Over 150,000 *[AFP]* 52
Communists Said To Play Growing Role *[AFP]* 53

Pakistan

Robert Gates Meets Ishaq Khan, Delivers Letter 54
Bush Expresses Concern *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Spokesman Comments on Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
DAWN Editorial *[19 May]* 54
Gilani Says PRC Favors Kashmir Settlement *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
State Premier Accuses India in Farooq Death *[AFP]* 55
Source Says Iran Using Hizballah in Kashmir *[MENA]* 55
Kashmir Leader Disqualified To Contest Elections *[Islamabad International]* 55
Supreme Court Stays High Court Order *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Seven Die, 40 Hurt in Lahore Bombing *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Five Die in 'Indiscriminate' Sindh Shootings *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
10 More Killed 20 May *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Sri Lanka

LTTE Misses Talks in 'Apparent Protest' *[AFP]* 56
LTTE Calls for Work Stoppage To Protest Arrest *[AFP]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Secret' Plan To Make Syria Attend Summit

JN1905183490 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 18 May 90 p 3

['Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr dispatch from Paris]

[Excerpt] High-level Arab political sources have revealed to AL-QABAS the existence of a new secret plan, currently being discussed by a number of Arab states and parties, regarding Syria's participation in the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad.

The sources said the main element of the new plan is a call for sending an Arab ministerial delegation to Damascus, after the conclusion of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, to brief President Hafiz al-Asad on the summit agenda prepared by the ministers and to consult with him over the resolutions that may be issued by the Baghdad summit.

The sources said this delegation would be charged with inviting Syria to attend the summit one way or another. Meanwhile, AL-QABAS has learned that an important Arab party suggested in the past two days that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid should go personally to Damascus to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and convince him to send a delegation, even a ministerial one, to the Baghdad summit. [passage omitted]

Tripartite Committee on Lebanon Concludes Meeting

LD2005142790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Riyadh 20 May (SPA)—The foreign ministers of the Arab Tripartite Higher Committee dealing with the Lebanese crisis ended their meeting this afternoon, held at the Foreign Ministry in Riyadh.

The meeting, which was attended by the committee's envoy to Lebanon Lakhdar Ibrahimi and the Algerian and Moroccan ambassadors to the kingdom, discussed various aspects of the Lebanese crisis as well as current developments on the Lebanese scene.

Arab League's Klibi Leaves for Baghdad Meeting

Carries al-Asad Invitation

LD2005180690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpts] With the date of the convening of the Arab summit in Baghdad fixed for 28 May drawing nearer, INA said today that President Saddam Husayn had decided to send a personal envoy today with an invitation to President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria to attend this summit. [passage omitted]

Paving the way for the coming Arab summit, Arab foreign ministers will be holding meetings in Baghdad from next Tuesday in Baghdad. In this respect, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Tunis this afternoon for Baghdad to attend these meetings.

Arrives in Baghdad

JN2105064690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad tonight heading a delegation from the Arab League general secretariat to attend the Arab foreign ministers preparatory meeting on 22 May in Baghdad.

The Arab League general secretariat's delegation under Chedli Klibi will also attend the extraordinary summit in Baghdad on 28 May.

Chedli Klibi and his delegation were received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, a number of officials from the Ministry, and the Tunisian ambassador in Baghdad.

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to Shootings in Israel

Abu-Sharif on 'Soldiers' Attack

JN2005093690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpts] Extreme tension prevails in the occupied territory hours after today's attack on Palestinian workers. [passage omitted]

In Tunis, Bassam Abu-Sharif has accused the Israeli Government of and held it fully responsible for the massacre that was carried out by Israeli soldiers, as he put it. Abu-Sharif said that before opening fire, the Israeli soldiers checked the identity cards of the Palestinian workers to ascertain that no Israelis were among them. Abu-Sharif said this crime is a serious and sanguinary deed aimed at bringing in additional Israeli forces to the Gaza Strip in an attempt to strike at the intifadah and force the Palestinians to leave the territory.

Islamic Jihad Vows Revenge

JN2005112390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0933 GMT 20 May 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brother countrymen, we have just received the following:

Statement issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine.

The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine condemns the deed perpetrated by a Zionist butcher who killed seven innocent men of our people and injured 10 others this morning, 20 May, while shouting at our people: Blood, blood. The Movement affirms that it will retaliate

against this violence with more violence. God willing, we will avenge the blood of our innocent martyrs.

We are well aware these murders are part of a grand plot aimed at spreading terror and panic among our people to force them to leave and vacate the homeland to settle new Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The rivers of blood let by the criminal enemy during our confrontation with it will never weaken our determination or stop the march of our continuous struggle until we restore our rights to the entire territory of our Palestinian homeland.

Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Long Live Palestine, Islamic, Arab, and liberated from the [Mediterranean] Sea to the River [Jordan].

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine.

'Arafat Threatens Peace Rethink

JN2005183090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 May 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called on the international community to condemn the ugly Israeli massacre committed against the Palestinian people today. In statements to our radio, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] affirmed the fresh Israeli massacre will not weaken the Palestinian people's intifadah or their heroic revolution. He stressed the intifadah will continue irrespective of the sacrifices.

Abu-'Ammar threatened to reevaluate the peace process from its very foundation. He said: If matters continues as they are, I will call on the Palestine National Council [PNC] to make the appropriate decision in this respect. Abu' Ammar said the massacre committed today proves the Israeli Government is now bankrupt. He said: The Israelis know I am not joking, and that our people will not remain silent about these ugly crimes. Abu-'Ammar added: I will explain the situation to the forthcoming Arab summit, and I will ask the Arabs to move quickly to confront the situation. Otherwise, the deluge will drown everyone.

On his meeting with President Mubarak, 'Arafat said: The meeting was a positive one, and the Egyptian president condemned these ugly massacres that are committed against the Palestinian people.

Abu-'Ammar told our radio the Egyptian president conveyed to him a positive USSR position on the issue of Jewish immigration to the occupied territories.

On the other hand, sources [not further identified] affirmed the Mubarak-'Arafat talks today dealt with the subject of the Palestinian strategy for the next stage, which will be submitted to the Arab summit. It was learned that discussions dealt with harmonizing the proposed Palestinian strategies, as well as the results of President Mubarak's recent talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The sources affirmed that contacts will be held on the fringes of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting—among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq—to coordinate policies on the security formula that will be submitted to the Arab summit in light of the recent Egyptian contacts.

'Arafat also briefed President Mubarak on joint Palestinian- Libyan-Algerian efforts to convince Syria to attend the Arab summit. 'Arafat asked Cairo to resume its endeavors to secure Syria's participation in the Arab summit. The Palestinian leader also informed President Mubarak of the contents of the letter he had sent to U.S. President George Bush and in which Abu-'Ammar threatened to definitively suspend the peace process if the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government do not recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights in the occupied Arab territories.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid issued a statement condemning the Israeli massacres perpetrated in the occupied territories today, describing them as an obsacle to peace moves, and called for the severe punishment of the perpetrators of these massacres.

'Sources' Cited on Death Toll

NC2005180690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—Responsible Palestinian sources in Cairo have stated the number of Palestinian martyrs who fell in the massacre of Palestinian workers and in the subsequent clashes has reached 18 dead and well over 1,200 injured. The sources told MENA the Israeli troops are using poisonous gas in violent clashes with Palestinian masses.

The same sources added the clashes are taking place in Rafah, and that 350 Palestinians have been injured in the al-Shati' and Jabalyah camps and in the towns of Khan Yunus and Bani Suhaylah. The sources noted the clashes have extended to various areas in occupied Palestine.

Meanwhile, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo, has urged the international community and peace-loving forces to intervene to stop these bestial massacres.

Note Holds U.S. 'Responsible'

JN2005191390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpt] Tunis, 20 May (WAKH)—PLO representative in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi has stated the crimes and massacres being committed by the Israel forces would not have continued were it not for the U.S. Administration's policies and its bias toward and support for Israel. This statement emerged from talks Bal'awi held with U.S. Embassy officials in Tunis today.

In a statement to the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY-WAFA, Bal'awi said the PLO has submitted a strongly-worded protest memorandum to the U.S. Administration on the bloody massacres committed by the Zionist occupation forces in various parts of Palestinian territories today.

The memorandum holds the U.S. Administration responsible for the continuation and escalation of these massacres, which are being committed by the Zionist occupation forces with the support and encouragement of the biased U.S. policies and positions. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Calls for Sanctions

JN2005193790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Tunis, 20 May (INA)—President Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine has called for urgent international action to protect the Palestinian people from the crimes of Zionist occupation, ahead of ending occupation and building an independent Palestinian state.

In a message to the Palestinian people today, 'Arafat urged that international sanctions be clamped on the Zionist entity, which continues to fly in the face of international legitimacy and, backed by the United States, persists in its brutal criminality.

The Palestinian president declared that the gruesome Zionist massacre of Palestinian workers in Tel Aviv and Gaza this morning will mark a fresh takeoff for the valiant intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

'Arafat told Palestinian masses the butchers who imagine the Nazi-like massacres will halt the intifadah must be deluding themselves, and will discover it only will serve to inspire the Palestinian people to escalate their struggle.

The PLO chief urged the intifadah masses to consolidate their authority over Palestinian territory, defy Zionist military orders, and set up massive popular marches in each town, village, and camp.

'Arafat said the failure of any country to take action against Zionist criminality will add up to an encouragement of the genocidal war against the Palestinian people.

U.S. Mentioned in 'Massacres'

LD2005224790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization handed the U.S. Administration a strong memorandum of protest concerning the disgusting bloody massacres that are being carried out by the Israeli occupation forces since this morning in various parts of the occupied Palestinian territories. By this afternoon, these had led to 20 martyrs and more than 1,200 injured.

The memorandum was presented by Hakam Bel'awi, the PLO's representative in Tunis during contacts he made with officials at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. He told them these crimes and massacres, which are being carried out by the Israeli occupation forces, could not have continued without the support of the U.S. Administration and its biased stance toward Israel.

Al-'Asifah Forces Claim Anti-Israeli Operation

JN1905184490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] A military spokesman for Fatah's General Command of the al-'Asifah Forces has stated the following: In confirmation of the trend of armed struggle as the only means to liberate the entire national Palestinian soil, our heroic revolutionaries from the martyr Ahmad Musa al-Dalaki group, operating in the occupied homeland, set up an ambush against a Zionist military patrol on the Bayt Immar-Hebron road near the Si'ir junction north of the occupied Arab city of Hebron last night, Friday 18 May 1990. As soon as the motorized military patrol approached our revolutionaries' ambush, our hero revolutionaries attacked it with machine guns and hand grenades, wounding all patrol members. Large numbers of enemy police and army forces and members of the so-called border police soon rushed to the scene of the operation. They set up roadblocks and imposed a curfew at the scene of the operation and the surrounding areas. They then combed these areas and arrested a large number of Arab citizens in an attempt to find our hero strugglers who managed to withdraw and return safely to base.

The enemy acknowledged the operation and said one of its soldiers was wounded by bullets of our hero revolutionaries.

Concluding, the statement of the military spokesman for Fatah's General Command of the al-'Asifah Forces said: Long live Palestine free and Arab. Long live our Palestinian people's triumphant intifadah. Long live the fighting Palestinian rifle. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs; disgrace and ignominy to the cowards and defeatists. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The National Palestinian Liberation Movement-Fatah, the General Command of the al-'Asifah Forces, the command of the interior forces.

Bhutto Discusses Palestinian Issue With 'Arafat

NC2005195190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1908 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in al-Tahirah Palace in Cairo this evening. MENA has learned that during the meeting they discussed developments concerning the Palestinian issue in the international arena and ways to promote the peace efforts in order to enable the Palestinian people to secure

their national rights. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president; Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of Palestine in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo. The meeting was attended on the Pakistani side by the members of the delegation accompanying the prime minister and the Pakistani ambassador in Cairo.

Mandela Meets With 'Arafat in Cairo 20 May

NC2005211090 Cairo MENA in English 2105 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 20 (MENA)—Visiting Deputy Chairman of the African National Congress (ANC) Nelson Mandela received at his residence here tonight Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat Sends Message to Sweden's Andersson

JN2005172490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has sent a message to Sten Andersson, Swedish minister of foreign affairs. The message deals with the latest developments in the Palestine question and the situation in the Middle East.

The message was handed to (Vax Magnu), the Swedish ambassador in Tunis, during his meeting with the brother president in Tunis. Brothers Hakam Bal'awi and 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee members, attended the meeting.

Bal'awi Confers With French Officials in Paris

JN2005173190 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 May 90 p 1

[Text] Paris—Responsible Palestinian sources have asserted to AL-QABAS that Hakam Bal'awi, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Tunisia and Palestine's representative at the Arab League, has paid a lightning visit to Paris and met with three French officials directly concerned with the Middle East file and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The talks were held at the French presidential palace, Elysee. The meeting, conducted in the form of a working lunch, was attended on the Palestinian side in addition to Bal'awi by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud Darwish and head of the Palestinian legation in France Ibrahim al-Sus.

AL-QABAS also learned Hakam Bal'awi briefed the French side on current preparations to hold an emergency Arab summit conference in Baghdad and the atmosphere of the summit, stressing the great importance of the summit at this particular time. Talks also touched on the ministerial crisis in Israel, peace prospects in the region, France's possible role, the Soviet Jewish emigration, and issues related to it.

Hakam Bal'awi has recently become a member of the French-Palestinian joint committee. The meeting was his first working session with French officials within the framework of the joint committee. It is also known that Bal'awi was entrusted with contacting U.S. ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau.

Khalid Al-Hasan on Arab Summit, U.S. Policies

JN2005080590 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 May 90 p 17

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, by Raja Talab—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Talab] As an Arab summit draws near, how do you see the prospects for Arab solidarity?

[Al-Hasan] Arab summits have typically adopted very good resolutions but lacked the mechanism for their implementation. Such resolutions have received short-lived media attention, and before long joined the Arab League archives. Arab summit resolutions have thus become a kind of a painful anesthetic to lull Arab masses. Internationally, though, the resolutions, to begin with, counted for something. To my knowledge, American ambassadors in the region used to get in touch with Arab officials to talk them out of showing up for summits, and if such efforts proved fruitless, the Arab leaders were urged against making extreme or precise decisions. But, when it turned out that the resolutions lacked teeth, they became mere ink on paper without any real worth. We can hardly call summit resolutions a recipe for Arab solidarity. After all, leadership is about decisions and their enforcement. A leader who is unable to make a decision or one who does make one but fails to follow it through has no legitimate basis for being in power. If we were to carry on like this, the masses would end up giving up on their leaders. Hence, for Arab summits to become true rallying conventions, a mechanism is needed to see to the implementation of whatever decisions are made. Failing that, they are as good as nothing.

[Talab] Don't you think that more time should have been invested in attempts to reconcile Iraq and Syria to improve the odds for a successful summit?

[Al-Hasan] The Syrian-Iraqi row has become chronic. I recall that in my childhood all the Arabs moved to iron out Yemeni differences during the days of Imam Majid al-Din in the thirties. We are now in the nineties and Syrian-Iraqi differences make a mockery of the eastern front. This is at a time when the need to stand up to Zionist recklessness and unqualified U.S. support for Zionist belligerence has never been more acutely felt. Sadly, there are those who seem to be happy about these differences for the sake of balance. And there are those who are merely apathetic. Regrettably, all attempts at reconciliation cannot possibly bear fruit in one session. Arab leaders are not doing enough by way of reconciling the Syrian and Iraqi presidents, and at the eleventh hour,

one or the other is made to take the blame. It is high time things were more thoroughly prepared to smooth over all these differences.

[Talab] Under the circumstances, would you rather see the summit convened or postponed?

[Al-Hasan] It is in the Arab interests that the summit be convened, it being an emergency one. Al-Asad's prestige will not suffer if he goes to Iraq. If anything, his attendance will show him to be solicitous for pan-Arab solidarity. He will be perceived as making a serious effort to tackle the serious problems facing the Arabs—the Israeli threats to Iraq; the racist anti-Arab Western campaign; the influx of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine; and the U.S. Congressional resolution endorsing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. [passage omitted]

[Talab] How serious is the American approach to a political settlement to the Palestine question?

[Al-Hasan] Without a doubt, the public American position is different from and compares favorably with what it had been since the Nixon presidency. At any rate, the present American position is something of a summation of the policies of former administrations. These have been summed up in the Baker address to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and subsequent statements on complete withdrawal, rejection of settlement building, the Greater Israel dream, and the annexation of Jerusalem. To the extent that it is possible to say the United States has a stand on Jerusalem, it is internationalization, I think. But the United States has yet to spell it out in so many words. The U.S. position as I have described is new—not since the Kennedy presidency have we heard it thus stated. The ferocious campaign in the American Congress is designed to cover Israel, since there will have to be an arms reduction [in the Middle East] in the spirit of superpower detente. I do not see the Jerusalem affair as such a big deal. It was raised as a smoke screen for the ongoing friction between the United States and Israel and to give Israel a victory in this context. The friction, though, has not reached boiling point.

[Talab] Do you see the United States putting pressure on Israel?

[Al-Hasan] That will depend on the Arabs' ability to forge a united posture. If the superpowers are serious about detente, it follows that they will be serious about ending the cold war, and will address the Middle East as they have resolved other issues. It may take some time before the Middle East problem is tackled. A Middle East solution will be synchronized with the rhythm of superpower detente, and there may not be progress on that front over the next year or two. Specifically, the Americans will remain unhappy with the Israeli posture, but not sufficiently enough to bring pressure to bear on Israel. This will have to wait until the situation in the Soviet Union somehow levels out. If things and perestroyka go Gorbachev's way, then Europe and the Soviets will put pressure on Israel. How things eventually turn out will depend on imponderables. Everything is possible, depending on developments such as a meaningful and sensible Arab stand.

[Talab] If the Arab position remains unchanged, what are the options open to the PLO?

[Al-Hasan] If the Arab situation continues as it is, the only option left to the PLO is to shift from a regional to a comprehensive pan-Arab strategy.

Egypt

Reaction to Israeli Shooting Incident Reported

'Abd-al-Majid Comments

NC2005150390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Egypt has received with deep regret the news of this morning's incident, in which an Israeli soldier fired at some Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv. Eight people were killed in the incident and 11 others were injured. Seven are in critical condition.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said Egypt views this incident as a reaction to the atmosphere prevailing in Israel and inside the occupied Arab territories and a result of the recent faltering of the peace efforts. This painful incident undoubtedly shows how important it is for all obstacles facing the peace process to be overcome and for Israel to respond swiftly to this process. It also is important the culprit receives a legal punishment that will deter such incidents, he stated.

Group Threatens Israelis

NC2105054190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] In Cairo, a spokesman for an organization calling itself the Sulayman Khatir Group [named after an Egyptian Army recruit who fired at random and killed Israeli tourists in Sinai in 1985] stated his organization will take action against all Israelis [tata'arrad li kull isra'ili] living in Egypt to avenge yesterday's [Rishon Leziyyon shooting] incident.

President Confers With 'Arafat, Delegation

NC2005110790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo yesterday, at the president's office in Heliopolis this afternoon. The two presidents conducted a closed session. Members of the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations then joined the two presidents' meeting, which lasted about an hour.

The Egyptian delegation included Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's Office for Political Affairs. The Palestinian delegation included PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

The two delegations continued their talks at a working luncheon conducted by President Mubarak in honor of president 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation.

Reportage on Visit by Pakistani Prime Minister

Bhutto Arrives 20 May

NC2005120390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a one-day official visit to Egypt. During her visit, the Pakistani prime minister will meet with President Husni Mubarak to discuss international and regional issues of interest to the two countries. [passage omitted]

Discusses Kashmir, Other Issues

NC2005182390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1751 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Muni'm, the Egyptian president's press secretary, has stated that during their 90-minute meeting today, President Husni Mubarak and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reviewed the developments in Kashmir and the role Egypt can play in mediating between India and Pakistan to calm the situation and end the tension on the border between them.

He said they also discussed recent developments in the Middle East situation, the current situation in Afghanistan, and ways to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields.

The foreign ministers of Egypt and Pakistan were present for part of the meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Bhutto.

Departs for Tripoli

NC2105082090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Cairo for Tripoli this morning after a one-day visit to Egypt as part of her current tour of a number of Islamic countries.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, a number of ministers and high-ranking officials, and the Pakistani ambassador to Cairo saw her off at the airport.

Islamabad on News Conference

BK2105031090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Addressing a crowded news conference at the al-Tahirah Palace in Cairo yesterday, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said it is imperative for the Islamic community to raise its voice against repression in occupied Kashmir. She said India's denial of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people and its use of force against them have a created dangerous situation. India is threatening Pakistan with war, while Islamabad has forwarded several proposals to establish peace,

including the proposal to withdraw troops to their peacetime positions. But, India has rejected Pakistan's proposals.

Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan cannot be intimidated or threatened for its support to the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom. If war is thrust upon Pakistan, its people are fully capable of defending themselves.

The prime minister said there are many countries in the Arab world which have good relations with India, but which have now begun to fully understand the actual situation prevailing in Kashmir and Pakistan's stand on the issue, which is based on truth and justice.

Benazir Bhutto referred to Lithuania, saying that when the movement for independence began there, the Soviet leadership did not describe it as a subversive activity nor did they use force to suppress the movement. The situation in occupied Kashmir is different, where the people's movement for freedom is being suppressed by force. At the same time, India has been accusing Pakistan of interfering in occupied Kashmir. Such accusations are designed to distract world attention from the real problem. The prime minister invited Egyptian journalists to visit Azad Kashmir to see for themselves whether these allegations are true. She wished the journalists could visit occupied Kashmir and observe the atrocities being committed there. She added that the journalists and representatives of the international human rights organizations are not allowed to visit occupied Kashmir.

Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan never will flinch from providing moral, political, and diplomatic support to the just struggle of the Kashmiri people.

The prime minister appreciated Egypt's support for the Afghan people's struggle.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent Bakhshish Ahmad reports from Cairo that the prime minister expressed Pakistan's concern over the settlement of more than 1 million Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories. She regretted Israel's belligerent attitude, which is causing increasing atrocities against the Palestinian people day by day and further complicating the regional crisis.

The prime minister also referred to Pakistan's relations with Egypt and observed that the two countries can benefit from each other's experiences through increased cooperation in various fields.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent says the main aim of the prime minister's current tour of the eight Islamic states of the Middle East and Northern Africa is to exchange views with leaders of the host countries on the Kashmir issue and other major problems facing the Islamic community, and regional and international issues. The prime minister has completed her tour of Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, and North Yemen, which has been successful. They now have a better understanding of Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir and the imperative need for its peaceful settlement. The Kashmiri people aspire to exercise their right to self-determination according to the relevant UN resolutions, for which they have faced sufferings and hardships and made sacrifices. The Kashmiri people's problem was brought to the limelight after the present government assumed power 18 months ago. Pakistan always has maintained that the Kashmir problem should be resolved politically and peacefully, based on the recognized universal principle of right of self-determination under the relevant UN resolutions.

ANC Leader Mandela Ends Visit to Cairo

NC2105070690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, left Cairo this morning after a visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

During his visit, Mandela conducted talks on the situation in Africa and the Middle East. Cairo University awarded Mandela an honorary degree in political science in appreciation of his distinguished work in defense of civil liberties, the right to self-determination, social justice, and human rights.

Mendela was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Sami Thabit, head of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department.

'Abd-al-Majid on Mubarak's Tour, Summit Agenda

NC2005114890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated Egypt is working to form a united Arab strategy at the next Arab summit, slated to be conducted 28 May, to confront the current changes in the international arena and serve Arab causes, particularly the threats to pan-Arab security.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said President Husni Mubarak was successful in showing the world leaders he recently visited the need to oppose the illegal settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories and to support the efforts to promote the peace process and to find a just solution for the Palestinian problem—the crux of the Middle East crisis. Mubarak's success will strengthen jcint Arab action and achieve international support for it.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added Egypt also is seeking to obtain unanimous Arab support for President Mubarak's initiative to make the Middle East region free from weapons of mass destruction. He also said the next meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad will determine the issues to be discussed at the Arab summit. Specific results on these issues will be reached to formulate a

united Arab stand that can be submitted to the world prior to the U.S.-Soviet summit at the end of May.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed hope the two superpowers will support the united Arab stand, particularly because the main aim is to reach a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East that will ensure the rights of all the peoples of the region.

Libya

Impasse Continues Over Territory, Convoy

'Sources' on Failed Talks

AU1805190090 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] Paris, May 18 (AFP)—A fourth round of talks between Chad and Libya aimed at settling a long-standing territorial dispute has ended in Tripoli without any progress, sources close to the Chadian Embassy said here Friday.

"We could get out of this impasse" over the disputed Aouzou Strip on Chad's northern border with Libya "by taking it to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, on the basis of the Algiers agreement between our two countries of last August," the source added.

"Chad has offered the Libyans a compromise with a view to a court hearing (in the Hague), which could occur as of September, under the (Algiers) accord," the source here said.

Chadian Foreign Minister Acheikh ibn Oumar, head of Ndjamena's delegation to the talks in Tripoli that ended Thursday, was in Paris overnight Friday on his way back with his team to the Chadian capital.

The latest talks between the two sides came just days after Tripoli accused the Chadian Army of seizing a "civilian convoy" of 10 Libyan trucks well inside Sudan's western border with Chad.

Ndjamena has counter-claimed that the lorries were a military convoy taking food, fuel and ammunition to forces of the shadowy Islamic Legion, a Libyan-led force allegedly behind recent clashes in eastern Chad.

Chad's President Hissein Habre this month called for a "holy war" against Libya, which has backed rebels fighting his French-backed regime, but talks on the Aouzou Strip have continued.

Chad Guilty of 'Piracy'

LD1905090190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 May (JANA)—Mahamet Ali Adoum, the Ndjamena representative to the United Nations, alleged yesterday that Chad exercised a form of legitimate self-defense when it captured Libyan-Arab trucks and arrested its civilian passengers.

The JANA political affairs editor has commented on these allegations, saying:

Ndjamena will regret this definition and this justification, which considers penetrating hundreds of kilometers into another's territory and seizing what is there as a form of ligitimate self-defense. It has become clear to the whole world that Ndjamena is openly practicing piracy, and this has been embodied in most of its behavior with its neighbors.

Foreign Minister on Convoy

AB1905180590 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 19 May 90

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] The Libyan foreign minister, Mr. Jaddallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi says Chad has promised to find a solution to the recent seizure by its forces of a convoy of Libyan trucks inside Sudan. In an interview with the BBC's Arabic Service, Mr. al-Talhi said the matter was discussed during his talks with the Chadian foreign minister, Mr. Acheikh ibn Oumar, which ended yesterday. Mr. al-Talhi deflined to say what steps Libya would take if the convoy was not returned. He also said there had been no progress on the dispute over the ownership of the Aozou Strip.

Ethiopia Denies Libyan Support of Opposition

LD2005081890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0716 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry denied reports circulated by the mass media which quoted the Ethiopian president, Mengistu Haile-Mariam, as saying the Great Jamahiriyah is supporting the opposition inside Ethiopia.

This denial was stated in a statement conveyed by the Ethiopian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaision and International Cooperation.

Mandela Makes Statement to Media in Tripoli

LD2005045590 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 19 May 90

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Maa [May] 19, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The African Militant Nelson Mandela made a statement to journalists at Tripoli international airport. He said: "My delegation and I are very pleased to respond to the invitation of the brother leader to visit the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. I have been looking forward to this visit since we received the invitation. I would like to remind you that

I first visited this country in 1962 and circumstances and conditions then were different to what they are now. Then, it was very easy, as soon as one arrived in the country, to notice poverty...and people were suffering from poverty and starvation. Diseases were widespread and many. They were suffering from housing problems and the lack of available healthy accommodation for the citizens...anger was clear in the features and faces of the citizens.

He added: "Throughout the years while in prison we read and heard about the developments taking place in Jamahiryah and the economic prosperity. On landing we noticed the signs of progress, prosperity and welfare in this country. We are very happy at this visit which we were looking forward to and meeting with our brother leader al-Qadhdhafi."

Regarding his winning of Al-Qadhdhafi international prize for human rights, Mandela said: "I first read it in newspapers. The importance of this prize lies in supporting the fighting and struggle in Southern Africa. The National Congress movement and struggle of the people of South Africa, that prize had a great effect for it was a reassertion and support for the stances of the brother leader and revolution in Libya and an encouragement and support for the movement of struggle and movement of liberation in South Africa thus the prize was a reaffirmation and support for this backing.

"This prize was recognized by some organisations and institutions which were not assisting or sympathetic towards the cause. When the prize was conferred upon me some people thought that it was granted to me personally and it was mine and not the people's struggle in South Africa. Those who thought that were disappointed when I informed them that the prize was not conferred upon me personally but upon the National Congress and the struggle of the people of South Africa."

Regarding the alliance between the two racist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine, he declared: "There has always been a close cooperation between the Zionist entity in Palestine and South Africa. We openly and frankly condemned that cooperation. We know and are sure that there is an economic and [words indistinct] cooperation between the two racist regimes."

Regarding the economic boycott of the racist regime, Mandela pointed out: "Our position is very clear vis a vis this issue and we urged the international community to impose a ban on the racist regime in southern Africa and the international public opinion should continue the ban. I have already informed Europe of that position and this is the message I send them."

Regarding the struggle in Palestine and South Africa, Mandela said: "The African National Congress made clear that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is our comrade in arms and struggle to liberate ourselves. We support the struggle of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to establish an independent Palestinian state."

Further on News Conference

LD2005180890 Tripoli JANA in English 1610 GMT 20 May 90

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' [May] 20, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The African militant Nelson Mandela declared 'in the light of the existence of an able internationalist leader like Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the side of the people of South Africa this people will never lose the battle.

In a press conference before leaving Tripoli, the African militant said 'we believe that it is an honour to accept the invitation of the internationalist leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi..for our visit will have great importance in the continuation of our struggle.

Regarding the aborted American Atlantic barbaric aggression against the people of Great Jamahiryah, the African militant Mandela asserted 'America has committed a gross error and it was totally unacceptable matter.

He said "we were very horrified because the family of the Brother leader was attacked in such a savage manner so as to murder all its members..we are happy that the leader and his family escaped that malicious attack.

Militant Mandela pointed out that "America was the only country in the world which did not adhere to the implementation of economic sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa. This is a serious matter especially its request to the International Court of Justice to lift the sanctions.

He added "This is a very important point which took into consideration because [words indistinct] agree with them in saying that the Apartheid regime in South Africa has given a lot which would require the lifting of the blockade against it. We, therefore, do not agree with them on substance.

He said "The president of South African regime must change all his policies and that the ANC [African National Congress] adheres to our whole strategy. We will continue to urge the international community to implement our demands relying in that on the advice of our old friends towards this sensitive matter..

The African militant Mandela called upon the countries of the world to confront racism and set up a different society in South Africa and the need for the struggle for fundamental human rights.

He pointed out that today the international community has become able to apply sanctions and force the regime of South Africa to change its stance on the apartheid policy.

African Conference Resolution Thanks Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2005175990 Tripoli JANA in English 1615 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-ma' 20, [May] JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The participants in the meetings of the 25th session of the economic commission and the 16th conference of the African ministers for planning and development expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation to the Leader of the Revolution and the Libyan Arab people for their great hospitality and support given to the meetings of the commission and continuing support provided by Great Jamahiryah for African countries.

In a resolution at the end of their meetings yesterday, the participants reasserted that the effective cooperation by Great Jamahiryah enabled the African countries to deal with the economic situation of the continent in the nineties in a manner realising the development of African economy and give it further impetus.

Sudan

Egyptian Envoy Says Peace Efforts Continue

EA2005155090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0908 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—The Egyptian ambassador to Sudan, Muhammad Taqiy al-Din al-Sharbini, has affirmed Egypt is continuing its efforts towards peace in Sudan.

Speaking to reporters following a meeting with the member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) Maj Gen al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir yesterday, al-Sharbini said the encounter reviewed bilateral relations, the current situations in south and western Sudan and the peace process in the country.

The Egyptian efforts for realisation of peace in Sudan is continuing and moving forward, the Egyptian ambassador said. He said the meeting further tackled the Arab and African issues of mutual interest, in the context of the forthcoming Arab summit conference.

Minister Says 'Leftists' Seek To Harm Egypt Ties

EA2005135790 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—Culture and Information Minister and the government official spokesman Muhammad Khawjali al-Salihin has accused some leftist elements of attempting to offend relations between Sudan and Egypt, pointing out that these elements, in collaboration with what is called Egypt's intellectuals, have been disseminating malicious rumours and false news reports about the relations between the two countries.

Salihin, in interview with Qatari newspaper "ASH-SHARQ", affirmed that the relations between Sudan and Egypt are internal, and with no link with presidents or governors.

He indicated that the national dialogue conference on peace issues had resolved region and identity issue.

He said that contacts are currently underway between the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs and leaders of rebel movement for reaching a suitable formula to achieve peace in the country.

RCC Member Says Rebels Withdrawn From Region

EA2005155990 Khartoum SUNA in French 0911 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and political supervisor of Equatoria region, recently returned to Khartoum at the end of his visit to Equatoria. In a press statement, Mr. Kassiano stressed the operations to transport relief items from Khartoum and Nairobi to Juba, capital of Equatoria, were still in progress.

Furthermore, Mr. Kassiano said he would discuss with Mr. Michael Priestly, UN representative for Operation "Lifeline" in southern Sudan, the possibility of forwarding supplies to Western Equatoria, adding that displaced people were starting to return to that region.

The RCC member also announced the rebels had withdrawn from the region of Yei following mopping up operations by the Armed Forces.

Brig. Kassiano also reaffirmed the revolution's determination to restore peace and stability to the country. The revolution is not prepared to make any concessions to the rebel movement, he confirmed. Mr. Kassiano stressed the need to reach a settlement of the problem of southern Sudan through direct dialogue.

Al-Bashir Blames Dissolved Parties for Problems

EA2005125890 Khartoum SUNA in French 0908 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], has confirmed the dissolved parties devastated the national economy and neglected the Armed Forces, adding that the leaders of those parties had sought to achieve their personal interests to the detriment of the Sudanese people.

During his meeting on Saturday [19 May] with officers and soldiers of the Khartoum military region, Gen. al-Bashir stressed any individual in the Armed Forces has every right to express his point of view on national issues, and he praised the role played by the Armed

Forces in protecting (?the homeland) and in maintaining security and stability in the country.

Committee To Propose New Political Organization

AB2005214590 Paris AFP in English 2000 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, May 20 (AFP)—Sudan's ruling junta has set up a committee with the task of making recommendations for establishing a new political organisation in the country, the government daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI said Sunday. The committee, coming under the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution which seized power last June, began work Saturday, it said.

Among the processes envisaged are the direct election of all members of the organisation at village, town, provincial and national level. The junta outlawed all parties when it ousted the civilian coalition government of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

According to the government daily, the name proposed for the new political organisation is "Sudanese National Congress", and its highest organ would be a central committee with a supervisory and advisory role vis-a-vis the government. The central committee, with the proposed name "National Council" would be composed of the representatives of federal states.

A federal system was proposed by a broad national conference last October as a solution to controversy over the application of strict Islamic law. Under the system each state would be able to apply laws of its choice according to the religious following of its population. According to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, the National Council would have a six-year mandate, after which the system would be reviewed. The consultative committee had, it said, already rejected both a return to a multiparty system or the single party system of President Jaafar Nimeiry, who was overthrown in a popular uprising in April 1985.

Official Reports on Foreign Loans, Repayments

EA2005160490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—Sudan had taken part in a symposium of foreign debts in the Arab world, which wound up session recently in Kuwait.

Sudan was represented in the symposium, which was attended by delegates from Arab financing institutions, by the deputy director of foreign loans administration, Ibrahim 'Abdullah al-Sayyid who presented a paper dealing with administration of Sudan foreign debts.

The paper revealed that the volume of Sudan's foreign debts amounted to 12.7 billion dollars until 1989, and the total of its commitments reached 3.6 billion. The paper highlighted the causes that affected the balance of payments during the past period and the foreign lending. It outlined the pressures emerged due to the foreign debts crisis and its effect on the drawing from loans and on the development.

Al-Sayyid also reviewed, in his paper, the possibility of Arab co-operation in alleviating the debts crisis, in view of writing off part of the Arab debts and interests.

The paper recommended provision of new loans from Arab countries to Sudan, intensifying bilateral commercial co-operation and fulfilling Sudan's needs of petroleum supplies, with a view to reducing Sudan's foreign debts.

Al-Sayyid paper focused on the efforts being exerted by the National Salvation Revolution to rescue the economy and solve the debts crisis.

Kuwait

Soviet Ground Forces Chief Meets Army Leaders

LD2005233790 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Colonel General Grinkevich, first deputy commander in chief of Soviet Ground Forces, and the accompanying delegation met this morning with Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, deputy chief of the Army General Staff. During the meeting, which was attended by a number of Kuwait Army commanders, means of bolstering bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the military sphere were discussed, KUNA reported.

Saudi Arabia

'Authoritative Source' Condemns Gaza Shooting

LD2005214990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2044 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Riyadh, 20 May (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has condemned the disgusting crime carried out this morning, Sunday, by an Israeli terrorist, which led to the death of eight Palestinians and the wounding of several other sons of Palestine.

The condemnation was made in a statement given to SPA today by an authoritative source. The source affirmed this crime amounts to a flagrant violation of human rights and a blatant attack on the Palestinians, who are armed with nothing but their faith in God, their legitimate right to live in their homeland, and their commitment to their lands in the face of all the inhuman practices of the Israeli authorities toward them.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also expressed its conviction that the continued martyring of Palestinians will only strengthen the commitment of the Palestinian people to their rights and increase their demand for and defense of these rights at whatever cost.

The Kingdom urged the international community, especially the freedom- and peace-loving states, to condemn this new Zionist crime and to work toward assuring all kinds of protection to the unarmed Palestinian people in the face of the continuing Zionist attack.

Yemen Arab Republic

South Yemen Army Units Begin Arriving in Sanaa

JN2005181290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] As part of the implementation of the Ta'izz agreement and the historic decision of the Yemeni homeland's leadership to move troops from Sanaa, the historic capital of the state of unity, and Aden, the economic capital, to new positions in the framework of a complete amalgamation of Yemeni Armed Forces units, advanced military units from Aden today began arriving at the garrison in Sanaa, the capital of the state of unity.

At the same time, units from Sanaa began arriving at their new stations and barracks outside the economic capital, Aden, in a step that demonstrates the credibility of the unity course and paves the way for the declaration of the establishment of the Yemeni Republic—a great, historic occasion being awaited by the masses of the Yemeni people and the Arab nation.

Further Reportage on Arab Summit Preparations

Saddam Agrees To Invite Syria

JN2005120590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA)—INA has learned His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has decided to send a presidential envoy [to Damascus] carrying a message inviting President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic to attend the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad on 28 May.

This came in the wake of a telephone call initiated at noon today by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt with his excellency the president.

'Unified Strategic' Stand Urged

JN2005102290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH urges the Arabs to unify their stands to shoulder pan-Arab responsibilities, respond courageously and proudly to threats, and bolster national and pan-Arab security.

In a commentary published today, the newspaper says: The extraordinary summit expresses a sentiment harbored in the hearts of all Arabs, as this summit is a response to Zionist threats which have become unmistakably clear, and which are showing signs and targets of the aggression. The Arabs have become a force which cannot be taken lightly. This force can be used to defend the Arab existence against the Zionist entity and imperialism. Moreover, Iraq has become capable of protecting its security as well as the security of the Arab nation. It neither will attack anyone nor allow anyone to attack it. The Zionist enemy and the hostile colonial powers must be aware of this.

The paper indicates that in view of the recent changes and challenges threatening the Arab order, the Arab nation needs to adopt a unified strategic Arab position to face up to the dangers which threaten the Arab existence, future, and civilization, and the most alarming of these challenges is the Jewish emigration.

The paper affirms the importance of adopting a unified position to deal with the international conspiracy being hatched against the Arab nation, particularly as the contents of rare documents are available to the entire world on the expansionist Zionist schemes, which envisage the establishment of "Greater Israel" encompassing all of Lebanon, all of Jordan, Sinai, two thirds of Syria, two thirds of Iraq, and one third of Saudi Arabia. The racist Zionist entity has drawn up a map incorporating all these lands inscribed on new coins issued in August 1989.

AL-QADISIYAH says: The Arab masses are impatiently awaiting the resolutions that the summit will adopt on the planning requirements and measures that need to be taken to safeguard pan-Arab security and draw up economic and technical plans to place strategic convictions and the pillars of pan-Arab security on the right track.

The paper adds that a successful summit will herald the era of Arab renaissance. The paper says: That is why the summit is called "The summit of summits". Arab leaders will rise to the level of the hopes pinned on them by their nation. This summit may be a test for these leaders, and it may be the most difficult test at this critical and serious phase.

The paper points out that the Arabs are facing a serious conspiracy targeting the Arabs, their existence, and their pan-Arab security.

Saddam Receives Soviet Ambassador, Verbal Message

JN2005132690 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 20, INA—President Saddam Husayn this morning received in audience the Soviet ambassador to Iraq.

The ambassador conveyed a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from the president of the Union of Soviet Socialists Republics Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership pertaining to relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union and means of developing them in all areas, as well as dealing with the situation in the region and issues of common interest.

Present in audience was Mr Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister of Iraq.

UN's Goulding Departs After 4-Day Visit

JN2005093890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA)—Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning after a four-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Goulding acquainted himself with the nature of the work of the UN observers operating in Iraq—the observers charged with observing the Iraq-Iran cease-fire.

Reportage on Rishon Leziyyon Shootings

Seven Killed, Seven Injured

TA2005052790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Seven Arabs were murdered and seven seriously wounded in Rishon Leziyyon this morning by shots fired by a young man wearing an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] uniform and armed with a M-16 rifle. Our correspondents report the man took ID's away from a group of Arabs gathered at their regular position at the Rose Junction on their way to work, and then opened fire on them. The wounded were hospitalized mostly at Asaf Harofe Hospital.

The man escaped and later was captured in a private Rishon Leziyyon house. He is now being interrogated at the police station. Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner warned against vigilante actions. He announced police patrols in sensitive areas have been increased.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT quotes Commissioner Terner as saying "the attacker had been released from regular Army duty after a short service for still unknown reasons after being locked up for some time."]

Knesset Members of all factions denounced the murderous action. Our corresponent Ze'ev Kohen reports Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi expressed disgust and said it was a mad action.

Shamir Condemns Attack

TA2005112690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 20 May 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan, "in Jerusalem, this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] We were all shocked by this terrible crime committed in Rishon Leziyyon today. This was a brutal murder with not the slightest justification. Things like that never should happen here. These men, residents of the Gaza Strip, came to work in Israel to earn their living. It is a disaster when instead of going to work, innocent people are being murdered. We must do everything we can to prevent such things from happening on our streets. I know there will be inciting elements who are interested in disturbing the peace and increasing violence, who will try to take advantage of this disaster to exacerbate violence and escalate such crimes. I call on the Arab population not to heed such inciters. They should see this incident the way we do: A disaster we must see is not repeated.

[Golan] Will we take measures to prevent such attacks on the Arab population?

[Shamir] Well, our police force and those in charge of public order are doing everything they possibly can to see to it nothing happens to a person who walks the streets with no evil intentions.

I wish to take this opportunity to send my condolences to the families whose loved ones were killed.

[Golan] Do you expect an increase of unrest in the territories following this grave incident?

[Shamir] It always is possible criminal elements would want to make use of such events. We must do all that we can so that they do not succeed.

[Golan] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Netanyahu, Olmert React

TA2005113290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 20 May 90

[By Jack Katzenell]

[Text] Every measure must be taken to prevent attacks on those coming to work from the various areas of the country, Prime Minister Shamir told the Cabinet today, and Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told our reporter David Essing the attack was a treacherous act which should be condemned with the utmost vigor.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] Well, like all Israelis I am shocked by this outrageous, barbaric act. I think that everyone in Israel understands that the only way to safeguard peace and coexistence is by respect for the most fundamental values.

[Essing] Might this be an indication that perhaps some Israelis might be getting the idea of taking the law into their own hands?

[Netanyahu] Well, they better forget about it, because we are a country of law, and we will not tolerate this kind of lawlessness and savagery from any quarter, Jew or Arab.

[Katzenell] I asked Minister Without Portfolio Ehud Olmert if the choice of Arabs as a target even by a mentally unstable person did not reflect the atmosphere created by two years of the intifadah.

[Olmert] Oh, I do not think that this has anything to do with the intifadah. Quite frankly, you hear every now and then that someone in America took a gun and killed seven people or 20 people in Boston or in Cleveland or in other major cities, and it happens in modern times, when people have access to guns, and people have access to guns in Israel. There are many soldiers who bring home their guns. Some people who are not stable enough and who suffer from certain mental problems and nervous breakdowns can do things like that. It is always regrettable, and we are taking every possible effort in order to avoid it, but one should not look at it as something different from what happens in other countries in similar conditions. [end recording]

The attack at Rishon Leziyyon has also been widely condemned in the Knesset by the right and the left. The right-wing Tehiya party has submitted an urgent motion for the agenda. Tehiya Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni also strongly criticized those passing the site of the attack who had not administered first aid immediately to the wounded. He also said the government should provide medical and financial aid to the families. Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan of the Tzomet right-wing party said innocent people, Arabs or Jews, have a basic right to security. Anyone taking the law into his own hands has to be punished to the full extent of the law, he said, and acts of this sort brought disaster to all.

Disturbances Erupt

TA2005123390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Disturbances erupted in various locations in the territories following the murderous attack in Rishon Leziyyon. The reports indicate there thus far have been six fatalities: two in Rafah, two in Gaza, one in Hebron, and one in Qabatiyah. It has been further learned that dozens have been wounded. Arab residents told our correspondent Moti Amir the number of wounded now stands at over 200. They were injured by rubber and plastic bullets and by tear gas.

More Arabs employed in Israel have returned to the Gaza Strip, over which a black cloud of smoke from burning tires is hovering.

The police have amended their original statement and are now saying that the number of Arab workers killed in the murderous attack in Rishon Leziyyon is seven rather than eight, and that 10 were injured, including six who are in critical condition and four slightly injured.

Palestinian 'Manifesto' Issued

TA2005134490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Arab bodies and institutions in the territories have issued a manifesto following the murder in Rishon Leziyyon, putting the blame for the killing on the Israeli Government for what they termed its extremist positions and the hatred the Israeli political system bears toward the Palestinians. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the manifesto was read out in a news conference in East Jerusalem. It says Palestinian lives have become cheap, and now not only soldiers, but even extremist civilians may take them.

The authors of the manifesto call upon the United Nations and the Arab leaders to intervene and place a UN contingent in the territories in lieu of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The manifesto also blames the United States for the deterioration in the situation because of its support for Israel.

The Party for the Advancement of Zionist-Liberal Ideology in Israel has also condemned the murderous attack in Rishon Leziyyon. It expressed the hope the maniacs who dispatch assassins to kill Jews every day of the year will now understand how it feels to be innocent victims.

[Later in the same newscast it is announced that in the West Bank, "Tulkarm, 'Anabta, adjacent refugee camps, and several villages" have also been placed under curfew.]

'Personal Motives' Indicated

TA2005142590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The investigation of the suspect involved in the murderous attack in Rishon Leziyyon indicates that he was prompted by personal motives involving an Arab. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the suspect told his interrogators that eight years ago he was sexually assaulted by an Arab, and he has been trying to find him ever since. He claimed that approximately three weeks ago his girlfriend walked out on him, and he told her yesterday that he intends to commit suicide, or else attack others and serve time.

After shooting at the Arabs this morning, he arrived at his girlfriend's house and admitted what he had done. That was where he was detained.

Our correspondent Rafi Shalhin reports that the youth will be sent for a psychiatric examination tomorrow. The magistrate has issued an injunction banning the publication of the youth's name. The youth reenacted his deed.

Mordekhay Issues Warning

TA2005165790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, said he will not allow instigators to exploit the tragic event in Rishon Leziyyon to stir up violent disturbances. He toured Judaea and Samaria, conferred with commanders, and instructed them.

Gen. Mordekhay told our correspondent Arye Gus that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] intends to calm tempers down. He called on the Jewish residents to avoid shooting or attacking Arabs for the good of the public at large, and for the sake of a general calm.

Goren: No Organization Involved

TA2005175190 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 May 90

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Dan Margalit; place not given—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Good evening. Coordinator of Government Activities Shmu'el Goren.

[Goren] Good evening.

[Margalit] The first question that begs asking is this: Residents of the territories reacted pretty swiftly to the incident in Rishon Leziyyon. There are fatalities in several locations, both in Gaza and Judaea and Samaria. Was this simply an incredibly quick spontaneous reaction to the incident, or was it staged by some central leadership which had an emergency plan stowed away for a case like this, when it needed to get the entire West Bank and Gaza going at once?

[Goren] Before I reply, I would like to seize this opportunity to express my sorrow at the death of the Gaza workers killed in Rishon Leziyyon, and to wish full recovery to the wounded who are being treated at hospitals, whom we visited during the day.

As for your question: No organization was behind today's riots. As soon as the report of the incident was broadcast on the media—including one of the European radio stations which spoke of a very high number of casualties, implying that the attack was carried out by a squad—various elements seized on the facts to stoke the fire, inciting Arabs both inside and outside the territories to take action. You do not need an order-issuing, organized headquarters to create such a heated atmosphere. After the local population heard the reports, riots erupted.

[Margalit] What European station? And who listens to European radio stations in Janin?

[Goren] Residents of the territories certainly listen to that radio. In addition, there are certain notables in the territories and, I regret to say, Israeli Arabs who joined this course of action, who...[changes thought] Our problem at the moment is to find ways to calm tempers.

[Margalit] Before we address this aspect, and since you mentioned notables in the territories, I would like to ask: How long will the curfew continue, and how many territories residents are now subject to these curfews?

[Goren] The curfews were imposed in order to prevent the continued rioting. It is aimed at nothing else. There was apparently great tension and a relatively high number of casualties. The main problem with which the security forces have to cope is how to restore calm in the area. One of the means at their disposal is the curfew, which was imposed in a bid to calm and restore quiet to the area. We hope fervently that conditions will enable us to lift the curfews soon.

[Margalit] Up to now the problem was how to protect Jews from Arab laborers crossing the Green Line, after one or two of them perpetrated personally organized terrorist attacks. Now a new problem seems to have arisen: How will we protect the Arab workers entering Israel?

[Goren] Earlier we heard a police officer who used legalese to describe the suspect, but what we probably have here—and I say probably out of caution only—is a lunatic who this morning opened fire at a group of workers whose only crime was working in Israel. The act has been condemned by everyone even slightly related to the issue. Other—less responsible—people have taken advantage of the incident to stoke the fire. To sum up, it is very difficult to provide a solution to such a problem.

[Margalit] From what you have said I gather that, in this case, it is unnecessary to reassess the issue of employing workers from the territories in Israel.

[Goren] Certainly not. Such considerations cannot affect the employment in Israel of workers from the territories. If, on the other hand, Arabs from the territories took advantage of this to perpetrate similar deeds, that would have been different.

[Margalit] Would you have reconsidered this policy had there been a full-time defense minister?

[Goren] Let it go Dan, this has nothing to do with any defense minister. What we have here is laborers coming to work in Israel. As long as they do not take part in violence, we will allow them to work.

[Margalit] You mentioned the activities of both Israeli Arabs and residents of the territories who reacted to the incident. Today we heard that Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Faysal al-Husayni, and Sari Nusaybah—who, as we know very well, were deeply involved in the recent political negotiations—have met with Western diplomats, including the U.S. consul, demanding three things: an emergency convention of the UN Security Council; the establishment of a UN- sponsored commission of investigation; and the dispatch of an international contingent to protect the territories residents. What is your reaction to this?

[Goren] I would say that some elements are taking advantage of this attack, which was perpetrated by an apparently unbalanced man. We have learned that, unfortunately, lunatics do not exist only on their side. I think we should differentiate between this event and the entirely different political issue. This event is in no way connected to the political issue.

[Margalit] You said earlier that we now aim to calm tempers. Do we have the means to achieve this end, after such an incident?

[Goren] We will use the means at our disposal to calm tempers. I hope very much we will be able to achieve our goal, at least relatively.

[Margalit] Good luck, Shmu'el Goren, and thank you.

[Goren] Thank you.

Eighth Fatality Noted

TA2005182590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The number of fatalities of the Rishon Leziyyon murder now stands at eight, after one of the wounded died of his injuries in a hospital.

Military sources said that six residents were killed in today's riots in the territories: four in the Gaza Strip and two in Judaea and Samaria. Several hundred residents came to hospitals in the territories for treatment; most of them were released after a short while. At this time about 200 wounded remain in hospitals in the territories for continued treatment.

[In a related report, Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 20 May adds that "in extraordinary clashes which occurred today between Gaza residents and soldiers, 11 Molotov cocktails were hurled at patrols, wounding 12 soldiers." The report adds that "652 residents turned up at local hospitals for medical treatment; 112 of these remain hospitalized, including six critically wounded."]

Gaza Notables Refuse Meeting

TA2005183490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] For the first time since the outbreak of the intifadah, senior Gaza Strip notables today refused to meet with the commander of the Southern Command and with the head of the civil administration. The officials summoned the notables to persuade them to take action to calm tempers in the Gaza Strip. As'ad al-Saftawi, a Gaza Strip leader, was the only one to attend. He was authorized by his comrades to present their protest to the commander of the Southern Command and the head of the civil administration over the incident in Rishon Leziyyon.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that during the meeting, al-Saftawi asked Major General Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] be removed from the population centers in the Gaza Strip, and that the soldiers be instructed to show restraint so as to prevent further loss of life.

Shomron Warns Against Reaction

TA2005200390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 May 90

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of the General Staff, by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari; in the Tel Aviv studio "a few minutes ago"—videorecorded]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Mr. Chief of Staff, have you not learned from today's events that the pace of developments is now set by unrestrained individuals on both sides, rather than politicians? This happened in the case of bus No. 405 [which was rolled into a ravine by an Arab], and again in Rishon Leziyyon today.

[Shomron] Allow me, first of all, to express on behalf of myself and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], our sorrow at this insane murder of eight innocent people. I would further like to send my condolences to the bereaved families.

As to your question: Over a very long period the intifadah has failed to get the masses, which carry the pain of the intifadah on their shoulders, to demonstrate in the streets. They have failed to do that. They tried hard to exploit various explosive factors in order to set the people marching in the streets, and there is no doubt that when something like today's event happens, when a person who is, in my opinion, deranged—the IDF released him from service over 18 months ago—murders people, those intifadah elements are certain to harness the event for their needs in order to say: This is part of the State of Israel's policy.

[Ya'ari] What happens is that there appears to be a vacuum in which the act of a madman, as you have defined him, can incite a very large public—which we observed in the Gaza Strip today—to stage very violent demonstrations.

[Shomron] The fact itself is true, but there is no way we will allow the return of the former phenomenon of mass marches in the streets. I would like to seize this opportunity to warn the large public of residents of the territories: We will do everything to enable them to live a decent life and to find means to make a decent living. However, we will certainly not allow them to go out in the streets. We have brought down the necessary troops, and we are making the necessary preparations. I am herewith warning them not to attempt to carry on their backs the burden of the illusions which their leaders are trying to force on them.

[Ya'ari] In view of the intense reaction in the territories today, do you think there are grounds to the assertion recently voiced by one of the generals at an officers' meeting, to the effect that the intifadah is dying out? The impression is that we are actually sitting on the edge of a pile of hot embers which the slightest breeze fans into flames.

[Shomron] Undoubtedly, the population is highly motivated to act for the establishment of a Palestinian state. There is no doubt about that. The IDF's activities aim at preserving relative calm and a low—and constantly decreasing—level of violence in the area. I think these activities are very successful most of the time. A grave incident such as the one today can change the situation for a certain period.

I think that in general, insane acts by any of the sides are very dangerous at this point because they can develop into very serious situations. Therefore, I am warning everyone—and that includes Jewish residents of the territories—to refrain from hasty, irresponsible deeds.

[Ya'ari] In today's Cabinet meeting, one of the ministers [Yitzhaq Moda'i] proposed imposing a two-week curfew and severing the territories from Israel completely. Will you consider this suggestion?

[Shomron] After meeting and discussing the situation, we [not further specified] came up with solutions. We will not allow the intifadah to spill out into the streets; we will not allow it.

[Ya'ari] In another context, are there any measures designed to stamp out the intifadah that you have not applied so far? I am referring to measures hinted at by some political figures and which can, in your opinion, quiet the situation more stably and permanently.

[Shomron] I do not know what people mean when they speak of stamping out or eradicating the intifadah. If, however, they refer to applying massive, aggressive force against the unarmed civilian population in the territories, I do not think they understand the context in which this struggle is waged. This is a struggle over spheres of life in which Israeli society is a party. It could easily cause a rift in Israeli society, as well as very grave problems in the international sphere.

[Ya'ari] Can I infer from your remarks that you do not foresee substantively different measures?

[Shomron] I do not. At the same time, I think we will continue the progress toward our goal, which is to lessen the level of violence and to preserve the intifadah in a state with which the State of Israel can live in the sense that it does not require us to make any moves that are against our vital interests. This is our goal.

[Ya'ari] Thank you, Mr. Chief of Staff.

Vilna'i: Gaza 'Under Control'

TA2105045990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] The head of Southern Command, Major General Matan Vilna'i, says the Army now has the situation in the Gaza Strip completely under control. Yesterday, four residents were killed and several hundred received treatment for various injuries following violent demonstrations in the wake of the shooting at Rishon Leziyyon.

Talking to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, Gen. Vilna'i expressed his regret at the casualties, but he added that in the light of the attacks on soldiers by hundreds—sometimes thousands—of Gaza residents, yesterday's toll was relatively light.

[Begin recording] [Vilna'i] As I have pointed out, I believe that it's a very small number of casualties, because you must see how it's going when hundreds—maybe thousands—attack small patrols, small posts of our soldiers, and they are frenzied, as I said, and it's a very dangerous situation for our soldiers. They did not use live weapons, live ammunition, only special ammunition for a situation like this, and in the first days of the intifadah, from our point of view, it was another story. Now, after 30 months, we know how to handle the situation, and therefore these four Palestinians that have been killed—we are very sorry that they have been killed, but it's a very small number in a situation like this.

[Ben-'Ami] Tomorrow is another day. You talked of small patrols. Today do you intend to beef up those patrols? Have you brought in a lot of reinforcements? What do you think is going to happen tomorrow?

[Vilna'i] We have full control of the situation. We have now enough forces all over the Gaza District, and I believe that tomorrow will be like the days before this. You have to remember that the last week in the Gaza District was a very calm week all over the area, and we believe that the next week will be the same, if the population will understand the situation and will understand that we must carry our mission in the area. [sentence as received]

[Ben-'Ami] But the curfew will remain in force tomorrow and perhaps through the week?

[Vilna'i] I believe that now we have to have a curfew all over the days of the mourning of the death of the dead people. It's about three days, and after that we'll decide what to do. [end recording]

'Escalation' of Intifadah Urged

TA2105051090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 May 90

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Unified Uprising Leadership, in a special pamphlet put out following yesterday's attack, has called for an escalation of the intifadah, a three-day general strike beginning today, and a one-week boycott of work places in Israel. The leaflet also calls for residents to break ties with the civil administration and repeats earlier calls for a boycott of Israeli products.

In Jerualem, Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner has banned all demonstrations until Wednesday, Jerusalem Day [marking the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967]. Police forces have been increased in East Jerusalem and in Arab areas inside Israel.

Dozens of stone-throwing incidents were reported in East Jerusalem neighborhoods last night. [This and following additions are reported by Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 21 May in a similar report. Here Jerusalem Domestic adds that following these incidents, "the police detained dozens of locals."] In the Shu'fat refugee camp in north Jerusalem, live bullets were fired at masked youths. One resident was injured and evacuated to hospital.

Two petrol bombs were thrown at a police patrol in Wadi al-Jawz, and, in a separate incident, a petrol bomb was thrown at the police in East Jerusalem. There were no casualties.

[Jerusalem Domestic adds: "A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a passing vehicle on Jerusalem Boulevard in

Yafo last night. It ignited but no one was hurt and no damage was caused. Searches in the area revealed a second incendiary bottle."]

Pazner Confirms Pledge Not To Attack Arabs First

TA1905133090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser has confirmed reports from Cairo that Israel's policy is not to initiate a war against an Arab country. Avi Pazner was replying to a question by foreign correspondents on a report by the official Egyptian news agency contending Jerusalem has transmitted a promise to Cairo it would not be the first to launch a war.

Political observers in Cairo have said Egypt leaked the report to quell the tension between Israel and Iraq against the backdrop of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's declarations, and that Israel's promise was probably relayed to the rest of the Arab countries.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 20 May in a page one report says, "Following a report issued yesterday by the Egyptian news agency, according to which Israel committed itself to Egypt not to initiate an attack on an Arab country, political sources in Jerusalem asserted that that there was no such thing.

"Avi Pazner, the prime minister's spokesman, made it clear yesterday that it is Israel's policy not to start wars, but that it did not promise it would never strike the first blow against any Arab country. He said Israel maintains the option of a first or preemptive military strike if it is faced with a concrete threat."]

Egypt Given 'Assurances'

TA2005050190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Egypt says Israel has given it assurances that Iraq will not be attacked. This according to a government source in Cairo. Last night the director of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, said Israel has no intentions of launching an attack against Iraq, but other sources in Jerusalem said no guarantees were issued.

Iraq wants the forthcoming Arab League summit devoted to what it calls the Israeli threats against Bagdhad. Egypt is unhappy with the idea. Earlier, the United States warned Cairo not to commit iself to any military alliance against Israel.

Shamir on What Was 'Promised'

TA2005173890 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by parliamentary correspondent Eli Nisan on 20 May at the Prime Minister's Office—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Nisan] Mr. Shamir, is there any truth to the reports saying Israel promised Egypt not to carry out a preemptive strike against any Arab country?

[Shamir] There is no method of commitments. On that occasion, about a month ago, when someone accused Israel of planning attacks against Arab countries, such as Iraq and Jordan, we told the Egyptian Government it was untrue, that Israel is neither preparing nor planning any attacks against any Arab country whatsoever.

[Nisan] In that case, Mr. Prime Minister, what do you believe to have been Egypt's interest in publishing the report?

[Shamir] I do not know precisely. Egypt must have repeated the information it had received from us, and perhaps it wished to lighten the tension and to calm the situation.

[Nisan] Mr. Shamir, do you believe the outcome of the elections in Jordan—the increased power of the Muslim Brotherhood and the developments which occurred among members of the procession marching toward the Israeli border—reflect the Jordanian king's weakness?

[Shamir] I do not wish to intervene in Jordan's internal affairs. Naturally, we take interest in everything that goes on in neighboring countries. Jordan is a very close neighbor, and we would like the Jordanian Kingdom to enjoy calm and quiet and stability.

Media Adviser: Bush 'Misinterpreted' Shamir

TA2005101890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 May 90 pp 1, 4

[By Moti Bassok]

[Excerpts] "The administration of President Bush and Secretary of State Baker is very sensitive on the issue of settlements; with the President, it is really an obsession. He takes every report on this issue very hard. Prime Minister Shamir has never, and he never could have, promised not to set up any settlements. There is a misunderstanding between the two men on this issue." These remarks were made yesterday by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser.

U.S.-Israeli relations have undergone a period of tension in the past few weeks following repetitive announcements from Prime Minister Shamir that he has no obligation to approve Baker's five points, and that the new government he is setting up has no intention of referring to this plan at all. The U.S. Administration took a stern view of the settlement in the St. John's Hospice in the Christian quarter of East Jerusalem, the ceremony of taking a Torah to Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus, and Shamir adviser Deqel's declaration of a campaign of settlement in the territories. In its reactions, the State Department is showing high sensitivity to any irregular occurrence in the region and responds accordingly. It had a harsh reaction to the shooting incident at

Husayn's yacht and threatened to support the Arab resolution at the UN Security Council against immigration to Israel; the two Houses of Congress passed a joint resolution last Thursday to fine Israel the sum that the Construction and Housing Ministry had allocated for the St. John's settlement, $1.8 million. [passage omitted]

Pazner said the press tends to exaggerate reports about tension in relations between Israel and the United States. He did not deny there are difficulties in relations, but according to him they result from the process of setting up a new government. The disagreements between the two countries are not about basic issues, that is why they should not be expected to change U.S. treatment of Israel. According to Pazner, the last moves on the issue of settlements are in no way different than those made when the Alignment was in the government. The Washington administration is highly sensitive to the issue of the territories. According to Pazner, Bush misinterpreted what Shamir told him at the White House. Shamir said Israel would not launch an overall settlement campaign, and Bush interpreted it to mean Israel would not set up any more settlements. Pazner stressed Shamir could never have said anything like that, because it contradicts his basic position. It is obvious, because of budget, security, and absorption problems, that the new government will be unable to launch a settlement campaign. According to Pazner, the problem is Bush is not looking for a practical solution; his objection is total. He opposes even a small settlement, such as Dugit.

Concerning the erosion in Israel's status in both Houses of Congress, Pazner said that on the issue of the St. John's settlement there was a series of misunderstandings and mistakes both in terms of the manner and the timing of the people's entrance of the building. The prime minister did not know about it, and when it became a matter for the courts, he could no longer intervene. According to Pazner, a correct information campaign explaining that it was done without the knowledge of the government and the prime minister will solve the problem. [passage omitted]

Security Sources: 'No Concrete' POW Talks

TA2005054390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Security sources reiterate there are no concrete negotiations between Israel and any terrorist organization. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe was told there was no appeal to Israel by the Shiite Amal organization or by any other organization for the release of POW's. All the POW's and MIA's are considered alive as long as there is no evidence to the contrary, the sources said.

The remarks were made in response to an announcement by the Amal spokesman in Beirut last night that the organization is prepared to hand over to Israel the bodies of two soldiers in return for the release of some 400 Shiites detained in southern Lebanon, and that the proposal was transferred to the International Red Cross.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 20 May reports: "Israeli security authorities commented that Israel is ready for negotiations on the release of prisoners provided that all Israeli prisoners, missing or dead, were included."]

Goren Says Decision To Reopen Universities Stands

TA2105055690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] The Civil Administration has not renounced its intention to reopen the universities in the territories, despite the violent incidents which took place there yesterday. Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, said that the president of one of the universities will be summoned to the civil administration very soon and told that he can renew studies at his university. Mr. Goren expressed the hope that the security forces will soon succeed in calming the situation. The military administration [as heard] will maintain contacts with the local residents, and the curfews will be lifted if it transpires within several days that tempers have indeed cooled.

Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus reports that the Gaza Strip, all major towns in Judaea and Samaria, and many villages and refugee camps are under curfew today. Several firebombs were hurled at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrols in Judaea and Samaria last night. No one was hurt, and no damage was caused.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility for Stabbing

TA2105085590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] An anonymous phone caller, claiming to belong to the Islamic Jihad organization in the territories, assumed responsibility for the stabbing murder of 40-year-old Ya'aqov Shalom in the 'En Kerem Inn in Jerusalem last night.

This morning someone called the AFP offices in Jerusalem and announced that he had murdered a Jewish settler, who was a recent immigrant from the Soviet Union. The caller said that this marked the beginning of a vengeance spree decided upon by the Islamic Jihad to avenge the continuous and daily massacre of the Palestinian people by the Israelis.

Armed Men Attack French Tourists in Amman

10 Casualties Reported

LD2105102590 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] After the attack this morning in the center of Amman, Jordan, in which French tourists were injured, the Jordanian minister of tourism has given some details: Two unknown persons, one armed with a revolver, the other with a knife, attacked two busses carrying French people who were about to visit the Roman ampthitheater. There are reported to be a total of 10 injured, nine tourists, of whom two are seriously hurt. The tenth is the Jordanian driver of one of the coaches. The attackers are said to have shouted: For the martyrs of Gaza, as they attacked, referring to the violence yesterday in the territories occupied by Israel.

The ambassador of France in Amman, Denis Bauchard, has said that three of the injured are seriously hurt.

From Paris, President Mitterrand has called the Bashir hospital in Amman where the casualties were taken, in order to get news of the injured.

One Attacker Apprehended

JN2105111390 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Ministry of the Interior has said that a gunman opened fire from a pistol at a tourist bus heading to the Roman amphitheater in Amman this morning, wounding nine passengers, including a Jordanian, one seriously. The wounded were taken to hospital. Medical reports said that their condition is good. Four of them have already left hospital. The attacker was apprehended and the pistol was seized. Security authorities began immediate investigation.

The source said that the Jordanian Government regrets and condemns this criminal action and asserts that justice will be done against any acts of lawlessness.

Attacker Arrested

JN2105124590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1203 GMT 21 May 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian authorities have arrested the person who today opened fire, and then used a knife, in an attack against a group of 35 French tourists in the center of Amman which resulted in the wounding of 10 people, nine French and the Jordanian bus driver.

A high-level source has said that the person was identified as the 30-year-old Ahmad Jasir Badwan from Bayt Nushif near Hebron.

The source denounced this ugly attack and considered it a deliberate act to divert attention away from the events in the occupied territories.

It has been learned from informed sources that four of the wounded left al-Bashir Hospital, while the others were transferred to the [King Husayn] Medical Center. It has also been learned that two of the wounded are in critical condition, one with a bullet in the chest, the other with a bullet in the leg.

Jordanian officials, particularly Minister of Tourism 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Health Minister Muhammad 'Addub al-Zabn, and Public Security Director Fadil 'Ali, immediately moved to the scene and then to the hospitals.

King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan also telephoned to inquire about the condition of the wounded.

Source Condemns Rishon Leziyyon Shootings

'Ugly, Racist Crime'

JN2005115390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just learned from the editorial room that a Jordanian responsible source has expressed Jordan's condemnation of the ugly racist crime, which resulted in the martyrdom of eight Palestinian citizens and the critical injury of others at the hands of an Israeli terrorist near Tel Aviv this morning.

The source said: This ugly act brings to mind the crimes committed by the Stern, Irgun, and the Haganah gangs against the Palestinians. It is part of the Israeli fanaticism and racism which aims to terrorize the Palestinians and force them to flee their lands. It is a natural result of the growing wave of fanaticism in Israel, which is being fanned by the intransigent policies and positions of the ruling quarters. And it is not different from the racist crimes committed against the Africans in South Africa.

The source urged the civilized world and all human rights advocates to denounce this crime, condemn the policies and practices that led to it, and take the necessary measures to provide international protection for the unarmed Palestinians against what appears to be an Israeli racist campaign against them.

Badran Denounces 'Massacre'

JN2005184090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpts] An Israeli soldier opened fire on 100 Arab workers at Rishon Leziyyon near Tel Aviv today. He kept shooting from his automatic rifle until he ran out of ammunition. The massacre left eight Arabs martyred and fifteen others seriously wounded. [passage omitted]

The Israeli crime has provoked widespread denunciation. Prime Minister Mudar Badran has voiced the government's condemnation of the criminal act. In a statement to our correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah, the prime minister said:

[Begin Badran recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I received the news of the horrendous crime committed against these youths by the occupation authorities this morning with profound distress. I vigorously condemn and denounce it as does each Arab and Muslim and, indeed, every moral person in the world. These defenseless people are being continuously targeted for liquidation by the occupation authorities—at all levels. Even before I heard the reaction of the Israelis, I commented that the perpetrator will be said to be mentally deranged, because we know that the man who set fire to the al-Aqsa Mosque was alleged to have been insane. The bottom line is that the Israeli authorities are terrorists who encourage state terror and individual Zionist terror against the Palestinian people, demolishing their homes, and killing their children. Only yesterday, the Israeli Army was found by an international report to have killed 150 children and wounded many thousands. I saw for myself children hospitalized in Amman—having been incapacitated during the intifadah. Without a doubt, this terrorist attack should be condemned not only by the Arab nation, but also by the two superpowers that brought Israel into the world—the United States and the USSR, who in the name of human rights are now encouraging immigration into the occupied territory. In the name of human rights, thousands upon thousands of Soviet Jews are coming to displace owners of the land and uproot them—humans' rights at the expense of the Palestinian human being's rights. As if their displacement was not enough, they are also being gruesomely murdered. On this very day, the Israeli Army continues to carry out killings. Several people have also been killed and hundreds of others injured today. It is a black day, but God willing, it will be black for the Zionist movement and Zionist state. The Arab nation has to come up with an effective response. The incident must figure prominently on the Baghdad summit agenda, since the intifadah requires substantial material backing—support for the steadfast people on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These workers who go to help Israel's economic effort can barely make ends meet. The question now is: Shall I go to help Israel's economic effort and get killed for my livelihood, leaving behind my brothers and children? Well-off Arab states must come forward with means of support for these laborers. The intifadah that has caused the Arab nation to hold its head high should endure, and receive meaningful material and moral support from all the Arab states that have the means. [end recording]

MENA Reports Demonstration

NC2105090890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 21 May 90

[Excerpts] Amman, 21 May (MENA)—Informed sources in Amman have stated that one foreign tourist was killed and four wounded when a Jordanian citizen opened fire on a tour bus near the Roman amphitheater in the center of the Jordanian capital. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a huge demonstration took place in the al-Baq'ah refugee camp near the Jordanian capital. Approximately 5,000 of the camp's Palestinian residents demonstrated to protest the Israeli massacre of Arabs yesterday.

Joint Economic Projects Discussed With Pakistan

BK2005040990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Pakistan and Jordan have agreed to set up three fertilizer plants in Pakistan based on phosphate found in Jordan. Two of these projects have already been approved, while the third is being discussed. This was stated by a Pakistani spokesman while talking to newsmen on the prime minister's plane during its flight from Amman to Sanaa. He said raw materials for the projects will be provided by Jordan. One of the projects will manufacture [word indistinct] potassium phosphate.

Pakistan has proposed to help Jordan prepare a feasibility study of a railway line which will link Jordan with Saudi Arabia. All expenses in the study will be borne by Pakistan. A Jordanian delegation will visit Pakistan to hold talks on expanding trade links, particularly the export of Pakistani rice to Jordan. Bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, science, and communications were discussed during Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's Jordan visit.

Israelis Fire at Finnish Troops, Injure One

NC1905150590 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] A patrol of the Israeli occupation forces opened fire at a position manned by Finnish troops in al-Tiri in the South today. The Finnish troops, who are operating as part of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon, returned the fire. Clashes ensued between the two sides, and a Finnish soldier was seriously injured. He was taken to the UN hospital in al-Naqurah.

Reaction to Rishon Leziyyon Shootings

Islamic Jihad

NC2105070190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement, in a telephone call to the AFP office in Jerusalem, has stated that the [Rishon Leziyyon] crime is part of a major conspiracy to spread panic in an effort to empty occupied Palestine for the hordes of Soviet immigrants. It warned that it will respond with greater violence to the murder of the eight strugglers.

Hizballah Statement

NC2105072690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Eight Arab workers were killed and nine injured during a massacre perpetrated by the Zionists near Tel Aviv. News of the massacre led to confrontations throughout the occupied land, giving substance to the words of Imam Khomeyni, God bless his soul, when he said: Kill us, for this will make our people more aware.

Hizballah has stated that the Zionist enemy's massacre of our kinfolk in occupied Palestine was in keeping with the traditions of the usurping Zionist entity. It was also a reminder of earlier massacres in Dayr Yasin and Kafr Qasim in Palestine and in al-Zrariyah and Jibshit in Jabal 'Amil.

Hizballah has issued a statement saying that the hideous massacre is a byproduct of the immigration of Soviet Jews, which has given further impetus to the Zionist enemy in its drive to implement its expansionist plans for a greater Israel, a country which will be a threat to the security of the entire Islamic and Arab world. The massacre is an attempt to empty the occupied towns of their Muslim inhabitants to make room for the new immigrants.

The statement added: The massacre was the natural outcome of Arab silence and indifference and coincided with efforts to conclude submissive settlement schemes with the historical enemy of the nation.

Hizballah said that what is needed is confrontation in every possible way to eradicate the Zionist enemy. The Islamic and Arab people will not abandon their right to respond to the massacre.

Hizballah concluded its statement by saying: We call on all the Islamic and nationalist Lebanese and Palestinian forces in all areas to declare Tuesday a day of mourning for the martyrs of the massacre and the clashes during which the Koran is to be recited in all mosques. We also call for participation in a large march to protest the enemy crime. The march will start from the Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd at 1500 tomorrow, Tuesday.

Hizballah Protest March

LD2105120190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] In protest of the martyrdom of the innocent Palestinian martyrs, the Islamic Hizballah Revolutionary Movement of Lebanon has organized a march and declared tomorrow a day of public prayers and mourning in Lebanon, according to a Central News Unit report from Beirut. Quoting the statement issued by the Lebanese Hizballah today: In protest at the bestial crime of the Zionists, perpetrated in the occupied territories yesterday, tomorrow the Muslim ummah of Beirut will display their wrath and abhorrence of the Zionists by staging a march.

The statement condemns the apathetic stance adopted by the reactionary Arab rulers against the Zionist crimes: One of the consequences of the migration of the Soviet Jews to the occupied territories is that the Zionist regime will be exerting greater effort toward expanding its aggressive plots.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly Sidon, Camps 20 May

NC2105064290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the Palestinian camps at low altitude shortly before 2200 yesterday. A state of maximum alert was declared in anticipation of a raid.

Clashes Reported; Source Denies Amal Gains

NC2005084390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Gunmen from Birri's Amal Movement continued their acts of aggression against the brother Hizballah strugglers in various areas yesterday. At 0545 this morning, they opened fire at the al-Nuwayrah area in a renewed attempt to exacerbate tensions in the situation.

A group of Amal gunmen tried to infiltrate into the village of Suhmur through al-Ghaznawiyah in Western al-Biqa', but the Islamic Resistance strugglers repulsed

the attempt, forced the infiltrators to flee, and inflicted two casualties upon the attackers.

In Iqlim al-Tuffah, Amal gunmen tried to raise tension in the region by opening sniper fire from 23-mm caliber weapons at Tallat Jurnaya. At dawn, they fired a rocket from the village of Sarba at Tallat Jurnaya.

A Hizballah media source has stated that the attempt by Birri's gunmen to trigger a flare-up is aimed at consolidating their positions in the region. The source added that claims made by Birri's gunmen of having made gains on the ground prove that they are the ones who started the flare-up to gain control. The Hizballah source denied any gains by Birri's cliques and stated that the repeated flare-ups by Birri's cliques refute their claims of demands for the implementation of a security plan in West Beirut. The source called for bringing pressure to bear on the leaders of these cliques to end the bloodshed.

Junblatt on Soviet Policy, Austerity, Borders

NC2005184290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpts] In al-Mukhtarah today, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt received Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha. After the meeting, Junblatt said: Amb. Kolotusha is a friend of Lebanon and of the PSP. He represents the Soviet Union's policy, which has been and continues to be supportive of Arab rights, despite all the campaigns by some reactionary Arab circles to cast doubt on this policy. We coordinate with the Soviet Union for the sake of the principles of Lebanon's independence, Lebanon's sovereignty, and detente. But, as is known, the circumstances are difficult and complicated. Even what was agreed upon in al-Ta'if may be frustrated in Baghdad. Attempts may be made in Baghdad to torpedo the al-Ta'if agreement, because the Arab and international equation in Baghdad is hostile to the nationalist line in Lebanon and hostile to Syria.

Regarding reports about the postponement of the Baghdad summit, Junblatt said: I am not aware of this. But I know that there can be no complete summit without Syria. [passage omitted]

Referring to the deteriorating economic situation, Junblatt stated that this will not improve without the implementation of a serious austerity policy, a review of all state expenditure, and the closure of the borders to smugglers. The people who control the sea today are the smugglers. The borders must be closed or else there will be a major collapse, he said.

Birri Says U.S. Stand on Eastern Area 'Vague'

NC2005093990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has stated that there is a real threat to the al-Ta'if agreement and Lebanon, and that the U.S. stand on the situation in the eastern area is vague. He added that Washington is opposed to General 'Awn but supports the military establishment, and it supports Samir Ja'ja' but is against the Lebanese Forces militia.

In a press interview, Minister Birri said: We cannot believe that the United States is against militias until Lahd's militia in the south is dissolved.

Minister Birri emphasized that he does not differentiate between the two parties involved in the eastern area conflict. He denied that there is openness between Damascus and Gen. 'Awn. He asked: Why is it not being said that there is openness between Damascus and the Lebanese Forces since the Lebanese Forces' fighters were allowed to cross from the eastern areas to the western areas during the 'Ayn al-Rummanah incidents?

Regarding the implementation of the security plan in West Beirut, Birri said that some leading government officials are deliberately acting against the implementation of this plan.

AL-SAFIR Describes U.S. Message on Summit

NC1905183790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] As exchanges are under way concerning an Arab summit, the United States has stepped onto the scene and given guidelines and warnings concerning the coming summit's outcome.

In a message it sent to some Arab governments, the United States expressed the hope that the Arab leaders participating in the summit would avoid emotional rhetoric and adopt a constructive attitude.

AL-SAFIR cited Arab sources who divulged the contents of the message as saying that the U.S. Administration asked that the summit avoid all stands contradicting those of the U.S. position on the Palestinian issue and accordingly refrain from mentioning the international peace conference. The message also called on the Arab summit to refrain from issuing any statement that might appear as an attempt to undermine the right of the Jews to emigrate or Israel's interests.

Despite the fact that the last Arab summit in Casablanca was extremely conciliatory due to U.S. pressure, the U.S. message termed the Casablanca resolutions positive but said that these resolutions were clearly unbalanced as they included an explicit criticism of the United States.

Al-Asad Receives Iraqi President's Envoy

JN2105112490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabi c 1119 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Iraqi Justice Minister Mr. Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Ali. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

'Arafat Adviser Al-Hasan Arrives in Damascus

JN2005142890 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1312 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, arrived today in Damascus. Palestinian sources said that al-Hasan will convey a written message from 'Arafat to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with bilateral relations, current Arab issues, and preparations under way to convene the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled in Baghdad at the end of the month.

Al-Hasan's visit is the result of recent negotiations by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with the Syrian and Palestinian sides to restore relations between them.

Minister Says Hostage Release Effort To Continue

JN1905170490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman met today with the fact-finding mission sent by the United Nations to investigate the Arab-Israeli conflict. The mission is headed by Mahmud al-Sa'id, advisor at the UN Information Department.

In his review of the background and developments of the conflict, the minister said that the Arabs and Syria want peace and support UN and Security Council resolutions on this subject, in contrast with Israel, which has rejected and continues to reject peace despite all the concessions that some Arabs have made.

The minister added that, despite the fact that Israel has not responded to calls for peace, Syria continues to view the international conference, with the participation of all parties to the conflict and the superpowers, as the only way to find a just and comprehensive peace for our Arab region.

Regarding Syria's continuing efforts to release the remaining hostages in Lebanon, the minister stated that Syria is acting on humanitarian grounds. It will continue its efforts in this area and on these grounds despite attempts by the Zionists and forces hostile to our nation to accuse us of terrorism.

In response to mission-members' questions, the information minister said that Syria opens its heart to all Arabs and to all Palestinian leaders. Syria has never locked them out.

Concerning the possibility of discussions between Syria and Israel, the minister noted that Syria has repeatedly declared its support for the international peace conference, because its resolutions will have international guarantees. Events and facts have proven that bilateral agreements have not solved the issues related to the causes of the conflict. Israel has never supported peace, and will never do so as long as its slogan is From the Euphrates to the Nile, that is, Greater Israel. Emigration and settlement of more Jews in the occupied Arab territories is nothing but the precursor to a new aggressive plan to absorb more Arab land.

Mr. Muhammad Salman added that Syria's doors are open to all reporters and journalists who wish to visit. For example, in the past two years, we received about 3550 journalists of various nationalities. After their visit, the majority of them wrote from perspectives different from the convictions they held before visiting our country.

Concluding the meeting, the minister wished the members of the mission a good stay in Syria and success in their duties. He also hoped they would establish the truth and express it in the media.

Reciprocity To Apply for UK Journalists' Visas

JN2005062790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpts] Damascus—Information Minister Muhammad Salman yesterday met with the fact-finding mission headed by Mahmud al-Sa'id, adviser at the UN Information Department, sent by the United Nations to investigate the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Muhammad Salman has affirmed that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is not interested in resolving the problem of the British hostages held in Lebanon. AP quoted Salman as saying that despite the continuous efforts made by Syria to secure the release of Western hostages held captive in Lebanon, the government of Mrs. Thatcher does not seem to be interested in the fate of British hostages. He added that this government has neither held talks nor any other type of contact with the competent Syrian agencies. He indicated that Syria has always facilitated the entry of British journalists into Syrian territory despite the fact that there are no ties between Syria and Britain. He added: Syria has been giving them entry visas at Damascus airport and other border posts two or three days after the pertinent requests were communicated to the competent authorities. He noted that Britain for its part required Syrian journalists to make two trips to British embassies in Amman or Nicosia to submit visa requests and then to obtain the visas. He added that this sometimes took a period of between four and six weeks, and that the trips were expensive.

Salman informed the UN fact-finding mission which is currently visiting Syria, that from now on British journalists shall be required to request visas from [Syrian] embassies abroad and to wait for a response.

Vice President Interviewed on Arab Ties, Egypt

JN2005171990 Manama WAKH in English 1638 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Doha, May 20 (GNA)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has underlined the importance of building a solid and strong bridge of Arab integration and solidarity at a time the Arab nation was facing various hazards and challenges in light of the recent world political and economic changes. [sentence as received]

In an exclusive interview with the Qatar newspaper 'AL-'ARAB', published today, the Syrian vice president called on the Arab countries to adopt effective political decisions to correct the joint Arab action and further called for reconsidering the Arab League's action with a view to boosting its role as a framework for collective action.

He also urged the Arab states to reach a formula for a concerted joint Arab action, capable of countering the latent dangers referring at the meantime that any Arab country, whatever its potentials, can not counter alone the challenges besetting the Arab nation. [sentence as received]

Touching on the Syrian-Egyptian relations and the outcome of the visit Egyptian President Husni Mubarak paid to Syria recently, Khaddam said that relations between the two countries were deeply rooted in history, the matter which made the visit clearly reflect the objective relations between the two countries.

Syria and Egypt are jontly seeking towards boosting bilateral relations and preparation to create an adequate Arab atmosphere that could help boost Arab solidarity to be able to meet challenges facing the Arab nation, Khaddam was quoted as saying.

Khaddam also welcomed the visit Qatar's Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani will pay to Syria early next June and expressed confidence the visit would greatly contribute to push forward fraternal bilateral relations to wider scopes of fruitful cooperation in all domains, the matter which would in turn boost Arab unity and solidarity.

Al-Shar' Receives UN Fact-Finding Mission

JN2005160190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received the UN fact-finding mission tasked with investigating the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During the meeting, the foreign minister answered questions asked by delegation members. The questions focused on Syrian positions regarding regional and international developments, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the intensive Jewish emigration to Israel, and the consequences of all these on security and stability in the region.

Spokesman Says Bhutto Visit 'Very Successful'

BK1905083490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] While on his way to Amman from Damascus, a Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen on board the prime minister's airplane that Benazir Bhutto's visit to Syria had been very successful. The Syrian foreign minister has also described the visit as an important milestone in Pakistani-Syrian relations.

The Pakistani spokesman said that Syria now has a better understanding of the Kashmir problem and has appreciated Pakistan's efforts to end the increasing trend of tension in South Asia.

The spokesman added that during talks between the prime minister and Syrian leaders, the two sides decided to set up a joint industrial venture for manufacturing chemical fertilizer in Syria. The fertilizer plant will use the phosphate found in Syria.

Pakistan has also agreed to provide a concessional loan of $10 million to Syria, which will be utilized for purchasing industrial and other materials from Pakistan.

The spokesman further said that Pakistan will give 5,000 tons of rice as a gift to Syria, which has also expressed its willingness to cooperate with Pakistan in the fields of metallurgy and textile machinery production.

Gid'onim Special Force Behind 20 May 'Massacre'

JN2105081390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 May 90

[Press review]

[Text] In a front-page commentary under the headline "Israel Kills and Expands: Where are the Arabs?" AL-BA'TH says: The Ramla [Rishon Leziyyon] massacre—the future course of the Israeli policy—has defined the method adopted by the enemy government to destroy the great intifadah. It is clear that this was a premeditated massacre because it coincided with the official announcement on the establishment of the Gid'onim special force, whose official mission is to uproot the intifadah.

AL-BA'TH affirms that Gid'onim is known in Jewish history as a killer. The perpetrator of the Ramla massacre was a soldier from the Gid'onim unit because those who elected the elements of this force are Sharon, Kahane, Levinger, and Ge'ula Kohen in consultation with the first killer Yitzhaq Shamir.

AL-BA'TH adds: If Israel tried to find an excuse for the crime by saying that it was carried out by a mad person, were the martyrdom of eight persons and the wounding of hundreds of the sons of the West Bank and Gaza on the day of the massacre, also carried out by mad persons, or, did the Zionist soldiers carry out the order to kill in the same way Shamir's office issued the order to perpetrate the Ramla massacre?

AL-BA'TH says: The instigator of killing and crimes is at the top of the Zionist hierarchy; and those who call for the annihilation of the Palestinian people are in the Zionist Knesset and their leaflets calling for the killing and end of the Palestinian people are distributed everywhere. And Sharon's statements are evidence of this. Sharon demands that the War Ministry be given to him so that he can end the intifadah in his own way, the way of Sabra and Shatila. He always blames the Israeli leadership for not following the policy of mass killing against the Palestinians.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Ramla massacre shows that Israel has continued the policy of killing, displacement, and expansion and that any talk about peace under the existing situation is a waste of time, and consequently falls within the process of anesthetization carried out by many sides.

Commenting on the same topic in the "Behind the News" column under the headline "A Terrorist Chapter" TISHRIN says: Yesterday, the occupation forces and the Zionist gangs carried out a new terrorist act against our people in the occupied Arab territory. The occupation forces escalated their repressive practices against the Arab citizens after one of the Zionists shot a group of Arab workers, killing eight of them and wounding more than 10.

TISHRIN stresses that the expansionist Israeli policy and its repercussions in the occupied Arab territory affirm that the Israeli rulers are now, more than ever before, living in the dream of the Greater Israel. They are following the same steps that resulted in the establishment of the Zionist entity through rejecting a fair peace and adhering to the policy of annihilating and displacing the Arab citizens in the interest of the Jewish settlers who are frantically being brought into the occupied Arab territory.

TISHRIN Ridicules Israeli Spokesman Remarks

JN2005093090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 20 May (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has ridiculed the statements made by Avi Pazner, Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's spokesman, in which he claimed that Israel has no aggressive intentions toward its Arab neighbors.

In a comment today, the newspaper says these statements are strange, and a source of amusement, because it is impossible for Israel to shed its aggressive, expansionist, fascist, and racist skin. Israel was established by aggression and continued to exist by means of aggression. Israel, moreover, constitutes an existing and continuing state of aggression. It is also the source of aggression and terrorism which not only poses a threat to peace and security in the region, but also in the world at large.

TISHRIN asserts that Israel is the standing, continuing obstacle to any effort or endeavor that aims to end tension in the region because it is a military, settlement-building society, which thrives only on Arab right and land.

The paper reviews Israel's black history, which is based on committing massacres against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people. The paper holds that Zionism is a racist, fascist movement that is the antithesis of humanity.

The paper adds that the attempts, which are in full swing, to form the Israeli government reveal the enemy's premeditated aggressive, expansionist schemes and projects, which exclude no Arab. Shamir, the paper goes on to say, could not guarantee the possibility of forming a narrow government, which observers think will now be more extreme, terrorist, and aggressive in light of a declared agreement with the parties he has allied with, that provides for the Jews' irrefutable right to the land of Israel—which, according to Zionist claims, extends from the Nile to the Euphrates, in other words, Greater Israel—through aggression and expansion.

'Serious, Effective' Response to Emigration Urged

JN2005153990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH publishes on page 1 an editorial under the headline "How and When Can the Arabs Confront Israel's Continuous Aggression," indicating that we as an Arab nation are undergoing an especially uncomfortable experience. The paper adds: These circumstances do not help us, since there are serious dangers to the present and future of this nation. This nation must draw up plans for confrontation. These plans must not be egotistical. The pursuit of policies based on an inflation of the ego by some will undoubtedly bring further catastrophes and calamities.

AL-BA'TH adds: It is true that the Arab nation is currently facing a real danger caused by the massive Jewish emigration to Palestine. However, this important and serious issue is not being dealt with properly. Proper tackling of the emigration issue requires holding meetings at various levels. Besides, it needs a thorough discussion covering all aspects of the issue so that practical and effective resolutions can result.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Confrontation of the massive Jewish emigration, Israel's arrogance, and its hostile and expansionist policy requires a serious and effective Arab effort, an effort that must translate into acts and deeds—we no longer need ineffective resolutions that fail to be implemented.

TISHRIN Urges 'Further Consultations' on Summit

JN2005154890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary and under the headline "Syria, the First Frontline State," the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the proposed summit and refers to statements made by Arab politicians to the effect that there can be no successful summit without Syrian participation, in view of Syria's political leverage in Arab and international spheres, not to mention its military weight.

TISHRIN adds: What is needed is a consensus summit, not a summit resulting in polarization; a summit that must result in the mobilization of Arab resources and capabilities and in the unification of political and strategic positions in the face of the increasingly menacing Zionist dangers. Since all this is required, Arab quarters are urging leaders and officials to reconsider their stands and hold further consultations on the highest levels with a view to reaching an understanding on the basics of joint Arab action, and securing this at a summit whose venue, date, and agenda must be agreed upon.

In its commentary, TISHRIN indicates that the USSR is forcefully proposing the issue of convening an international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices once again. The paper adds: This requires a unified Arab position and a unified Arab perspective of a just and comprehensive peace. We are saying this at a time when the United States continues to try to pressure and fragment the Arab position, and to peddle separate deals.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says that Arab quarters are wondering why there is such haste, since what is needed is a successful summit, and not a failed one. The paper adds: What is required is a summit that will unite rather than fragment the Arabs; a summit by which the Arabs will rise to meet the challenges and vindicate pan-Arab interests.

Commentary on Al-Asad's Call for 'Understanding'

JN1905074890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Word of Truth at a Bad Arab Time," AL-THAWRAH says: In just two months, leader al-Asad has twice called on the Arab nation and its leaders to reach a common understanding on the nation's fate and future, and on the life of its coming generations.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Both times, al-Asad, as always, was comprehensive. He dealt with the central point, which constitutes the pivot of the nation's crisis at this bad Arab time. He wanted to take the Arabs' hands and help them emerge from this negative state of affairs which makes them lose the capability to react and prepare to face a very serious stage in their history—a stage that threatens to make them vanish.

AL-THAWRAH says: Any Arab summit on the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Palestine question, and other pan-Arab issues without Syria—whose military and political weight, as well as its regional and international role are known as an objective equalizer in this conflict—will be void of any substance or outcome.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This is some of what the Arab leader wanted to say. Greater Israel, which is claimed in the Torah, will not exclude any Arab nor will it spare any of them from death and annihilation even if some Arabs try to forestall or delay the danger on scientific and nonobjective pretexts. Before disaster strikes, let us reach common terms. The dawn will then appear. And Hafiz al-Asad does what he says.

Under the headline "Syria Is the Basis of Common Arab Action," TISHRIN publishes the following in the "Behind the News" column: If the objective of the summit is to revive the policies of axes and to gather the Arabs in a propaganda meeting in the service of this or that ruler, the summit will be doomed to utter failure and will constitute a setback for the Arab consensus that must be built to champion pan-Arab interests and objectives, revive Arab solidarity, and confront the ever growing Zionist danger. The Arab masses in all Arab countries want a summit to achieve a pan-Arab awakening, real solidarity, and unity; they want a summit to confront Israel and its designs, and they want a summit to put an end to unilateral dealing with decisive issues and to achieve a collective peace that regains Arab land and rights. The Arab masses do not want a summit of personal interests to satisfy individual whims that do not serve Arab issues at all.

Afghanistan

Planes Allegedly Bomb Pakistani Territory

BK2005153490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 20 (AFP)—Two Afghan jets allegedly intruded into Pakistani air space on Sunday [20 May] and bombed the border area of Waziristan, officials said here. They said the jets dropped two bombs, both falling on unpopulated mountainous areas and causing no damage.

The planes penetrated deep into Pakistan territory at about 8:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) and returned after dropping the bombs in the Saidgai area of northwestern Waziristan, the officials said. They did not say if the planes were challenged by the Pakistan Air Force.

Relief Agency Suffers Second Attack 18 May

BK2105081690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 21 (AFP)—Shelter Now International (SNI), a Western humanitarian organization helping Afghans, suffered a second attack in less than a month when more than 100 people looted one of its facilities in eastern Afghanistan Friday [18 May], an SNI press release received here Monday [21 May] said. People shouting "Down with foreigners, down with Afghans who work with foreigners..." broke the gate and started shooting in the air with Kalashnikov rifles before firing two rockets into a reconstruction material factory in Ghani Khel area of Nangarhar Province, it said.

The attackers damaged the precast material and took away windows, doors, pipes, waterpumps and other material from the building. They also beat a guard, who escaped to the nearby base of a rebel commander, it said. The damages have not yet been assessed.

According to another guard, the attackers waving white and green flags came from the villages of Khot, Achin, Kahi, Nasian and Ghani Khel, inhabited by members of the Shinwari tribe, it said.

On April 26, a large crowd, responding to a call by a religious leader angry at a women's programme run by SNI, attacked facilities belonging to the relief organization in Nasir Bagh Afghan refugees camp in the bordering Pakistani town of Peshawar. SNI claimed that the damage was over a million dollars.

Sunday [20 May], the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), which groups some 60 relief organizations including SNI, condemned the increasing attacks against aid agencies, saying they could jeopardize assistance programmes.

An Austrian Relief Committee (ARC) office in Peshawar was attacked Friday by unidentified gunmen who stole two vehicles. ARC, in a communique issued Sunday, said that recent incidents directed against foreign aid agencies have caused "grave concern among donor organizations." It added that the "reputation of innocent (Afghan) refugees, who have nothing to do with these incidents, is at risk of being damaged... and the donors may re-think their assistance to Afghan refugees."

The relief organizations operate in 350 camps for 3.2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and several provinces in Afghanistan. There is speculation among aid workers that these attacks are the work of anti-Western fundamentalist and Arab groups trying to extend their influence in this region.

New Prime Minister Vows To Strengthen Military

BK2105093090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0839 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 21 (AFP)—New Afghanistan Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar Monday [21 May] said that his government would strengthen the country's Armed Forces and press ahead with political and economic reforms. In a policy statement, Mr. Khaliqyar, 56, told the national assembly that there could be no peace in Afghanistan until "foreign interference" was removed "with the help of God." "Therefore, strengthening of the Armed Forces would be the focus of attention of the government," he said.

The premier said his government could not wait for "outsiders" to decide the future of the country and called on Afghans to unite and work for peace. "My colleagues and I cannot wait to see what decisions will be made outside the country on Afghanistan," he said. "With all powers and potential inside the country, we will concentrate our efforts for peace and progress."

His remark came ahead of the May 30 Bush-Gorbachev summit that is expected to discuss the Afghan conflict which has claimed more than a million lives over the past 12 years. Senior Afghan politicians have said that Kabul may not necessarily agree on any deal between the superpowers which excludes President Najibullah's regime.

Mr. Khaliqyar said his was a coalition government and its foreign policy would be non-aligned, adding that private enterprise would also be permitted to operate in the country.

Mr. Khaliqyar is not a member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. He has been a government economist and a provincial governor until Mr. Najibullah appointed him prime minister May 7. Mr. Khaliqyar is still recovering from serious gunshot wounds he suffered when mujahidin guerrillas used an arms surrender ceremony to commit a massacre in his Herat Province last month.

"Honesty and truth telling, consultation with people on issues and the explicit assertion of truths and realities, however unpleasant and bitter, will form the method of our work," he said.

Afghan Resistance Statement Criticizes Agha Khan

BK2005160290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 20 (AFP)—The Pakistan-based Afghan resistance on Sunday [20 May] criticized Prince Saddrudin Agha Khan coordinator of U.N. aid to Afghanistan, and blamed him for the "disintegration and division" of the country. The cabinet of the Islamic Interim Government of Afghanistan, composed of Sunni guerrilla factions, unanimously endorsed the condemnation in its Saturday [19 May] session.

The statement follows a speech by the Prince May 17 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., in which he reportedly expressed hostility toward the Afghan jihad and mujahidin.

Prince Agha Khan said he favored disengagement by the superpowers and a halt to weapons supplies to the warring factions, adding that most U.S. aid to the mujahidin fell "into extremist hands," according to a text released Sunday by the U.S. Embassy here.

"The venomous statement of Sadruddin Agha Khan has not only had a false image of the realities, but also offended the honor and glory of the jihad (holy war) of the Moslem people of Afghanistan," the interim government statement said.

It added that the prince said U.N. aid was "the factor for the unity among the Afghans. He in fact made attempt to instruct disintegration and division of Afghanistan."

"He ... advised the Russians to curb the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. Agha Khan has also tried to create differences between Pakistan and Iran."

The prince's "true task," it said, was to use U.N. aid "for the failure of the targets of mujahidin rather than rendering and coordinating humanitarian aid."

The prince said in his speech that most fighting was "regional, tribal and territorial in nature" and that what was at stake was increasingly "arms and drugs."

"We strongly reject the untrue and irresponsible statement of Agha Khan and call upon him that if he did not refrain from such hostile speeches concerning jihad and the Moslem nation of Afghanistan and did not change his policy towards mujahidin, we would not accept any role for him in connection to the Afghan issue," the statement concluded.

Prince Agha Khan's representatives in Pakistan planned to organize this summer the return of hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees.

But a guerrilla faction has rejected the plan and human rights organizations said it would pose security problems for the U.N.

The Afghan resistance in Pakistan has refused any compromise with the regime installed by Moscow before Soviet troops were withdrawn in February 1989, and it considers President Najibullah, former head of the Khad Secret Service, partly responsible for the deaths of more than a million Afghans.

Rabbani on Closure of Mujahidin Offices in Quetta

PM1805103390 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 15 May 90 p 3

[Telephone interview with Burhanuddin Rabbani, "construction minister in the interim Afghan mujahidin government," by Muhammad Mahjub; place, date not given]

[Excerpt] [Mahjub] What truth is there in the reports about the closure of the Afghan mujahidin's offices in Quetta?

[Rabbani] The Afghan mujahidin's offices in Peshawar are still open and continuing their activities without any restrictions. Whereas the mujahidin parties' offices in Quetta have been closed in response to instructions from the chief minister of Balochistan, who has moved them outside the city. But the interim mujahidin government office in Quetta is still open. And we have asked Pakistan for a clarification on the matter.

[Mahjub] Are there any pressures on the Afghan mujahidin regarding a political solution?

[Rabbani] There are pressures from some states, but we have always emphasized that the Afghan question can be resolved by the Afghan people alone. In our view, the fundamental thing is that Soviet aggression against Afghanistan is still continuing. The Soviets continue to deliver to the Kabul regime large quantities of ammunition worth $5 billion a year—that is, in addition to financial aid. This situation hampers a solution to the problem.

This is, of course, in addition to the substantial reduction in foreign aid to the Afghan jihad. For nearly a year now aid has been stopped.

[Mahjub] Let us talk again about the closure of the mujahidin offices in Quetta. What is the importance of these offices' presence in that city, and what is the Pakistani Government's position on the measure taken by chief minister of the province?

[Rabbani] These offices run the affairs of the Afghan mujahidin residing in these areas in addition to other affairs inside Afghanistan. The Afghan jihad groups set up these offices in all border regions in Pakistan for that purpose.

The Pakistani Government has promised us that the Afghan mujahidin's offices in Quetta will reopen, and we hope this will take place shortly. [passage omitted]

People Said 'Optimistically' Awaiting Assembly

LD2005082690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 19, BAKHTAR—It was due to the successful conclusion of the last Loya Jerga [Grand Assembly] [words indistinct] 1987 that [words indistinct] point came into being in socio-political life of the country, including diverse areas of government activities. The enactment of the new constitution of the country and promulgation of the law on political parties in the Afghan society were endorsed for the first time and thus, paving the ground for subsequent developments and changes in Afghanistan.

The law on political parties, obviously, can be considered [words indistinct] toward the abolition of the monopoly of political power by a single party. This law enabled all political parties and organizations following different ideologies to begin their activities openly in the country.

In the international arena too, the Republic of Afghanistan, as an independent and non-aligned country, acquired appreciable political and legal authority, and the political relations of the government with certain western, Arab and regional countries greatly improved in some cases, it says. [as received]

Similarly, suitable circumstances and an appropriate atmosphere for the expansion of relations and revival of cooperation with Iran, the People's Republic of China and India exist. Participation as well as presence of a high-ranking delegation of Afghanistan in the international conference held in Belgrade and inclusion of the parliament of Afghanistan in the "World Interparliamentary Union" are convincing evidences to the ever-increasing international credibility of the government of Afghanistan after the 1987 Loya Jerga.

The (?local) armed commanders of the opposition have gradually acquired independent positions on the conflict in the country, most of them quitting armed confrontations with the government forces in virtually all parts of Afghanistan.

Obviously, the people had already realized the fact that implementation of the "policy of peace" and "reconciliation" was in their interest and hence, they stood by the Afghan Government and endorsed its policies concerning an amicable settlement of the conflict in the country.

Nevertheless the leadership of Afghanistan, after assessing all aspects of the socio-political life in the country, came to the conclusion that without active participation of all Afghan forces in the process of establishing peace in the country, a secure future could not be ensured.

On the basis of this theory, President Najibullah officially invited Muhammad Zahir Shah, the ex-king, and Hazrat Sebghatullah Mojaddedi to participate in the efforts underway for the settlement of the Afghan issue and to rescue the Afghan society from the claws of the war of fratricide.

Now, none of the external factors and reasons, i.e. presence of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan or monopolization of the political power by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan which were referred to on various occasions by the fundamentalists and the conservative lobby of the offposition as the main obstacle in the way of an inter-Afghan dialogue exist at present.

Doesn't the policy of 'wait and see' at the present juncture of the country's history seem to be a high treason against the people of Afghanistan?

The hopes for a secure future are being revived in Kabul and people are looking optimistically towards convocation of the Loya Jerga. This Loya Jerga will mainly focus on certain fundamental and vital issues and is being convened at time when the political and social forces of the country have jointly advanced formation of the peace front of Afghanistan and the world public opinion has greatly shifted in favour of the "political settlement" of the Afghan issue, the article [as received] adds.

As far as the government of the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, it has given reliable guarantees with regard to the participation of the opposition representatives in the Loya Jerga and the formation of the peace front of Afghanistan.

In fact, the banner of "Reconciliation" is an Islamic, national and Afghani one which does not bear any patches of party-based strategies and totalitarianism.

Two Killed in Missile Barrage on Kabul City

LD1905213290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] As a result of 22 surface-to-surface missiles being fired by extremists today, two citizens of Kabul city were martyred and another 27, including women and children, were injured.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that the injured were quickly transferred to hospitals and placed in intensive care.

The missiles, fired from the west and southwestern directions at residential regions of Kabul city, were cluster and Sakr type missiles which hit the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 10th wards of the city, causing material losses too.

One of the rockets hit an area near the Japanense Embassy, the FRG Embassy, and close to the residential

houses occupied by Red Cross personnel, which brought about losses to these regions.

The mines spread from the cluster-type missile were quickly neutralizd by the security personnel.

Two Diplomats Wounded in Rocket Attack on Kabul

BK2005150290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 20 (AFP)—Two senior diplomats were among 29 people wounded in a blistering attack of cluster-bomb rockets launched by mujahidin guerrillas on the Afghan capital, but officials said Sunday [20 May] that both were out of danger. Saturday's [19 May] day-long attack, which also left two civilians dead, was the heaviest on the capital in three weeks and was strongly condemned by the Afghan Government. Officials identified the injured diplomats as Michael Schulenberg, head of the United Nations Coordinator's Office for Afghanistan and Yugoslav Charge d'Affaires Velibor Dulovic.

"We condemn this act of terrorism supported by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. We are sorry about what happened but it is not our fault," said Foreign Affairs Spokesman Humayun Mukammel.

U.N. officials said Mr. Schulenberg and his wife were in their garden when a cluster rocket landed near their house in the residential Wazir Akbar Khan area late Saturday.

Mrs. Schulenberg escaped unhurt, but her husband was hit by a fragment of shrapnel in the wrist. He was out of danger, but would be flown to Geneva for surgery to remove the fragment, which was embedded close to a nerve, the officials said.

The Yugoslav envoy was hit by shrapnel in the leg and was being treated at the Soviet embassy's medical facility, Yugoslav embassy officials said, adding that he was out of danger.

Mr. Mukammel said cluster rockets also had hit the West German and Japanese embassy compounds, shattering windows. Both missions have been closed since the Soviet troop withdrawal in February 1989, although the premises have been maintained by local staff.

Loud explosions were heard in Kabul on Sunday, but the government spokesman said he had no immediate details on Sunday's attacks.

The stepped-up rocketing by the mujahidin, using cluster rockets armed with 98 small bomblets and other surface-to-surface missiles, came ahead of a loya jirga, or grand national assembly, to adopt sweeping constitutional changes. The constitutional reforms are in line with President Najibullah's political moves designed to help end the country's ongoing civil war, which has claimed more than a million lives in the past 12 years.

The mujahidin fired an estimated 45 rockets on Kabul on April 27, the 12th anniversary of the pro-communist revolution that brought Mr. Najibullah's ruling party to power.

Bangladesh

Ershad Reportedly To Run for Second Term

BK2005145590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpt] Dhaka, May 20 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, Bangladesh's longest serving head of state, Sunday [20 May] confirmed that he would run for a second term, the official BSS [BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY] news agency said.

The agency quoted Mr. Ershad as saying at an education conference here that he "wanted to see illiteracy removed from the society ... by the end of his tenure as president, if he was elected for another term in the next presidential polls" set for 1991.

Mr. Ershad, a 60-year-old retired general who seized power in a bloodless 1982 coup, has recently indicated that all national polls could be held ahead of schedule, but had so far refrained from putting up himself as a candidate.

He was elected president in 1986, and by a constitutional amendment passed by the ruling Jatiya Party-controlled parliament in July, he would be able to run for the post for two more consecutive terms. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Leaves for Thailand, Britain

BK2005131890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelly left Dhaka for Bangkok Sunday [20 May] on a 12-day official visit to Thailand and the United Kingdom. He is scheduled to spend three days in Bangkok and then proceed to London.

India

Kashmir Muslim Leader Killed; Crisis Meeting Held

BK2105101490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Jammu, India, May 21 (AFP)—Masked gunmen assassinated Kashmir's Muslim high priest, Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, Monday [21 May] after posing as visitors to his fortress-like home, relatives and officials said. The popular high priest, or mirwaiz, died in a government hospital where he was taken by security officials after being shot four times at close range, said a relative who witnessed the assassination. Four masked gunmen entered the mirwaiz's house in Srinagar, the summer

capital of the troubled northern Indian state, and fired from Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles, the relatives said.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) News Agency said at least 15 shots were fired at the religious leader by the gunmen who entered the house posing as visitors.

It was not immediately known who was responsible. But government officials said the attackers were believed to be guerrillas from the Hezbe Mujahidin the guerrilla wing of the Jamaat-e Eslami, banned along with eight other organisations earlier this year.

"The shooting of the mirwaiz has given a new turn to the Kashmir situation," said a senior Indian Government official reached by telephone from Jammu, the troubled state's winter capital.

The attack occured at 9:30 a.m. local time (0400 GMT) when the mirwaiz usually meets people and disciples in his house in a posh downtown Srinagar neighborhood, they added.

Doctors at the strike-crippled Soura Government Hospital immediately removed the bullets from the 45-year-old religious leader's body. After surgery, doctors had described his condition as critical, but his death was announced by relatives four and half hours after he was rushed to the hospital, officials said.

Top federal security and Kashmir's Civil Administration officials held a crisis meeting to review the situation and order a hunt for the escaped gunmen, other officials said by telephone.

The influential religious leader, who derived political clout from his hereditary post, was also the president of the Awami Action Committee, which supports the campaign against Indian rule in this northern state. The religious leader has been advocating popular participation to settle the Kashmir unrest and has warned he would use all his religious and political influence to oppose any attempt by New Delhi to rule Kashmir federally.

The death toll from violence linked to the bloody secessionist campaign in Kashmir has reached nearly 500 this year. India says it would not hold talks with the militants or other Kashmiri organisations until violence ends.

Meanwhile, a militant-sponsored curfew Monday paralysed Srinagar and 27 other Muslim-dominated towns and cities of the Kashmir Valley where Indian authorities had lifted for the day a marathon curfew imposed in January, reports here said. All shops and markets remained shut and buses and trucks refused to operate transport services in the valley, the reports added. Muslim militants ordered the one-day curfew to protest the presence of Indian Army soldiers in the valley's main cities, charging them with atrocities against the civilian population of the state.

Pakistani 'Subversives' Infiltrate; Three Killed

BK1905155890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Pakistani authorities tried to infiltrate six subversives in north (Kukpara) sector in Jammu and Kashmir today. They were armed with light machine guns, AK-47's, and carried a huge quantity of ammunition. In the action by the Indian security forces, three infiltrators were killed and three ran back with the help of covering fire from across the line of actual control. The infiltrators dropped their weapons and ammunition and fled into the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir territory.

A junior engineer in the state public health engineering department was dismissed from service today. He is said to have been involved in the kidnapping of the union home minister's daughter in November last. With this, 108 state employees have been dismissed from service by the governor so far.

Rajiv Gandhi's Remarks on Kashmir Reported

BK2005042690 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 20 May 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] In India, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has accused the government of mishandling the situation in Kashmir, giving Pakistan the opportunity to raise the issue internationally. Mr. Gandhi was speaking at a convention of his Congress Party called to fight religious communalism. Here is our Delhi correspondent Mark Tully:

[Begin recording] Accusing the government of alienating Kashmiris by its policies and by the security measures that had been taken to curb separatists, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said they are making the same mistake as General Tikka Khan did which led to the creation of Bangladesh. Gen. Tikka Khan conducted a ruthless military campaign against the Bengali independence movement in the then East Pakistan. Rajiv Gandhi also charged the government with giving Pakistan the opportunity to, as he put it, raise a hue and cry over Kashmir. Referring to the prime minister's belligerent statements on Pakistan, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi alleged that the government was talking about war to hide its own weakness. He maintained that the minority government had no right to thrust the war on the country. Although the former prime minister expressed confidence that India would stand united if there was a war, he also said the country had to be sure of the objectives of the war and its cost. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi clearly implied in his speech that the government was allowing the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, to dictate to it on Kashmir. [end recording]

Advani Decries Gandhi Statement Against Government

BK2105035890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has termed as irresponsible a statement by the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, accusing the National Front government of pushing the country into a war with Pakistan on the pretext of the Kashmir issue. He deplored the assertions of the former prime minister and the Congress-I national convention against communalism in New Delhi at a time when the Pakistan Government is giving open support to secessionist activities in Kashmir. Mr. Advani was speaking to newsmen in Nainital yesterday.

Singh Defends Policy on Kashmir, Punjab

BK2005075290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that there is no confusion, nor any contradiction in the handling of the Kashmir situation. Talking to newsmen on board an IAF [Indian Air Force] aircraft during his one-day visit to the cyclone hit areas of Andhra Pradesh yesterday, Mr. Singh said the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr Jag Mohan, is taking firm action against the secessionists and terrorists in the state. He said the minister for Kashmir affairs, Mr. George Fernandes, is also concentrating on the problems of the people of Kashmir. Even from the human rights angle, administrative actions are important and complimentary in preserving the unity and integrity of the country, the prime minister added.

About Punjab, the prime minister said we are for sealing the border effectively. On being asked about the elections to be held in the state within six months, the prime minister said the government is working toward this goal.

Says Pakistan Lacks Consistency

BK2005093490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that there is no consistency between the words and deeds of Pakistan, which could help normalize relations between the two countries. Talking to newsmen on board the Indian Air Force aircraft during his one-day visit to the cyclone-hit areas of Andhra Pradesh yesterday, Mr. V.P. Singh said that both Pakistan and China have border disputes with India. India has, however, been able to move toward normalization of relations with China, but was unable to gain success with Pakistan because of its interference in the internal affairs of our two border states of Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab. He said the intention of Pakistan is to jeopardize the normalization process between the two countries. Instead of trying to have bilateral dialogue on the basis of the Simla agreement, Islamabad is sending infiltrators and aiding and abetting terrorism and secessionist movements by setting up training camps within Pakistan and also in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. He also said that New Delhi's diplomatic efforts to counter Pakistani propaganda are yielding results.

The prime minister said that India wanted to have good relations with Pakistan, but Islamabad's action has belied our hopes. [passage omitted]

Minister Admits Differences With Kashmir Governor

BK2005095090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, has termed as total fabrication the reports in a section of the press that he has requested to be relieved of Kashmir affairs. Talking to newsmen on board a special plane on his return from Patna to New Delhi, however, he admitted that there are certain differences in perception between him and the governor on dealing with the terrorist problem. He said he has been trying to bring the militant youths out of the mood of desperation, as he feels this was possible. The minister said it was necessary to win over the confidence of the people for initiating political activity.

Referring to the development in Jammu and Kashmir, the minister said that the work on the Jammu-Udhampur Railway line is being accelerated and he is also discussing with officials about the old survey of Udhampur-Baramula railway line.

Operation Launched Against Pakistani Infiltrators

BK2005100090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the Border Security Force [BSF] and the state police have launched a joint operation to stop infiltration of Pakistan trained terrorists, smugglers, and spies in Poonch, Rajauri, Jammu, and Kathua Districts.

According to the BSF Inspector General, Mr. P.C. Dogra, the operation involves gathering of intelligence reports and organizing joint raids on the hideouts of terrorists and their harborers. This will help keep vision on the contacts and movements of these elements in the interior region. Mr. Dogra said barb wire fencing has been done in sensitive areas and the force equipped with night vision devices and latest weapons. Security on the border has already been tightened, Mr. Dogra added.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has appealed to the subversives to shun the path of violence and join the national mainstream as normalcy was gradually returning in the valley.

Gujral Rejects Pakistani Interference

BK2005125090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The external affairs minister says the country is fully prepared to safeguard its national interests and will not allow anyone to break the centuries-old communal harmony. Mr. I.K. Gujral was inaugurating a seminar on tourism in New Delhi today. He said Pakistan is not only interfering in Punjab and Kashmir, but also in other parts of the country by trying to break the traditional unity among the people of various sections.

The minister promised an early solution to all the problems facing the country. Mr. Gujral stressed the need to promote the correct picture of India abroad which would help earn more foreign exchange from tourism.

Minister for Kashmir Affairs To Visit Cairo

BK2005130490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1214 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 20 (AFP)—An Indian minister handling Kashmir affairs will leave Monday [21 May] for Cairo, where Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is due later Sunday [20 May], the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. The news agency said Federal Railways Minister George Fernandes would attend a two-day meeting of the Socialist International in the Egyptian capital beginning Tuesday [22 May]. It also said he was carrying a letter from Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. PTI did not give details and Mr. Fernandes could not be reached for comments. The visit "is considered a move on the part of the government (of India) to seek diplomatic support for India's stand on Kashmir at the Socialist International meeting," PTI said.

Ms. Bhutto, currently on a tour seeking support for her government's position on Kashmir, has visited Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan and North Yemen. She is also to travel to Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. Ms. Bhutto has called repeatedly for a plebiscite in the moslem-majority northern Indian state of Kashmir, where Moslems led by militants are fighting a bloody separatist campaign.

New Delhi insists that the dispute should be settled bilaterally.

Pakistan is calling for a plebiscite, but which would not include the option of independence, the main demand of the separatists.

Kashmir Schools Reopen; Situation 'Peaceful'

BK2105035690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] All educational institutions in the Kashmir valley are reopening today after the expiry of the extended winter vacation. The regional engineering and the medical colleges in Srinagar would however reopen on the 1st of next month. The state government has decided that all the 15,000 students of the 156 schools of the outlawed Falah-i-Aam Trust of the Jamaat-i-Islami will be admitted in the government schools.

The situation in the Kashmir valley remained peaceful yesterday. One Pakistani-trained militant was killed in the five-km border belt. Another militant was arrested from the Mendhar sector of Jammu Division.

The governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, visited the border areas of Uri and Kutwara yesterday along with senior Army, CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], and state police officers.

Officials Consider Gates Mission, Summit Prospects

BK2105052190 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 21 May 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] International diplomatic moves are underway in the row between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. As Pakistan's prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, continues her tour of Muslim countries seeking support for Pakistan side in the dispute, a senior United States delegation is visiting both Pakistan and India, trying to defuse fears of yet another war in the region. The delegation led by the American deputy national security adviser, Mr. Robert Gates, is now in Delhi, from where Mark Tully reports:

[Begin recording] The American delegation has said it is not attempting to mediate in the dispute over Kashmir, and that is because mediation is anathema to India. Western diplomats and Indian officials certainly see this visit by such a senior American delegation as a very serious attempt to put an end to belligerent statements by both countries' prime ministers, which have created fears of a fourth Indo-Pakistan war. Western diplomats say that the delegation has at least two specific aims. One is to get the armies of the two countries to withdraw to their positions in October last year; the other is to persuade the Indian prime minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, to meet the Pakistani prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. But a senior Indian official said to me neither will happen unless they really twist our arms, and they realize that could be very counterproductive. India feels that it suffered in the early stages of the first two wars with Pakistan because its Army was not sufficiently prepared. As for summit, officials here say that is out of the question unless Pakistan's attitude toward the current unrest in Kashmir changes completely.

There is a good deal of speculation here about the extent of Soviet support for this American initiative. Western diplomats believe it is significant that the leader of the delegation was in Moscow for the talks between the American secretary of state, James Baker, and the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, when the initiative was announced. Indian officials say they have

no evidence that the visit is part of a joint initiative by the superpowers. [end recording]

'Commando Battalions' To Curb Punjab Terrorism

BK2105053490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] The chief secretary of Punjab, Mr. S.K. Kapoor, has said that commando battalions of Punjab armed police are being raised on the pattern of national security guards to fight terrorism in the state. Talking to newsmen in Ludhiana, he said that five new battalions are being raised to intensify the campaign against terrorists in the state. He said the law and order situation in border districts has shown improvement during the past two months.

Meanwhile, five persons, including a hard-core terrorist, have been killed and two injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities in the state since yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, a hard-core terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces near Bansalwala in Bhatinda district early this morning. One AK-47 rifle and some ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorist, while his accomplice managed to escape.

In Gurdaspur district, two persons were killed and two seriously injured in a powerful bomb blast in Batala town last night. The bomb was planted in a (?bicycle).

Terrorists struck in village Khurda in Hoshiarpur district late last night and shot dead the sarpanch [village council chief] and the nambardar [village headman].

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Arrives 21 May

BK2105064590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] The Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, arrived in New Delhi today for the third meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission. The meeting is scheduled to take place later in the day. Mr. Mahmud, who is accompanied by an eight-member delegation, was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral.

Mr. Mahmud was slated to arrive last night but the bad weather forced him to return to Dhaka without landing at Calcutta.

The joint economic commission will review the entire gamut of bilateral matters, particularly in the fields of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Iran

'Framework' for Hostages Release Said Possible

LD1905174190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] In a meeting today with Mr. Kharrazi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] permanent envoy to the United Nations, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The action taken recently by the IRI and the positive responses of struggling Lebanese groups has presented the U.S. and other Western governments with the following question from their peoples: Why are they not—for the sake of resolving this problem—using their influence toward the release of the hostages?

The president also added: Western governments, by taking reciprocal measures, can prepare the necessary framework for the release of all the hostages; including Lebanese and Iranian hostages.

In the meeting, Mr. Kharrazi first delivered a report about the IRI's activities at the United Nations, and enumerated the positive effects the humanitarian measures taken by Iran in the course of the release of the two U.S. hostages have had on world public opinion.

More on Hostage Release, Western Reciprocation

LD1905174390 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to United Nations Dr. Seyyed Kamal Kharrazi who is here on a home-coming visit, Saturday [19 May] presented a progress report to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in connection with the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on peace in the Iraqi conflict. Kharrazi also briefed the president on the favourable impact, internationally, of Iran's humanitarian efforts which led to the release last month of two Americans missing in Lebanon.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani observed that the Iran's recent efforts coupled with the positive response from Lebanon's combatant groups has apparently generated second thoughts in the minds of Westerners who ask their governments why they do not respond to the Islamic Republic's initiative for solving the problem.

He said that the Western governments may secure the release of all those missing in Lebanon including the Iranian and Lebanese hostages, solely by reciprocating Iran's goodwill move.

Talks With Iraq Possible in Pakistan

LD2005164490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1515 GMT 20 May 90

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tehran, May 20 (TANJUG)—Direct peace talks between Iran and Iraq could take place in Pakistan, a well-informed Iranian source told TANJUG's correspondent in Tehran. According to the source, a possible direct dialogue can only be hosted by a neutral Islamic country which has good relations with both Iraq and Iran. He also believes that Tehran would not agree that this be an Arab state.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto recently made a one-day visit to Iran but it is not known yet whether the topics of the talks included the possibility of organizing an Iran-Iraq meeting in Pakistan.

Everything now depends on the results of contacts between Tehran and Baghdad, which started in early May with a letter from Iraq and continued with Iran's response to the message. The optimism of observers here is inspired by the fact that the two countries, strictly respecting the confidentiality of the letters, have so far expressed themselves positively about the other side's intentions.

Diplomatic circles in Tehran do not exclude the possibility of the direct talks being held in Moscow. The Soviet Union officially proposed this several months ago and Iran and Iraq accepted in principle.

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli, Leaders Visit Tehran

Confer With Velayati

LD2005021190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 19 May 90

[The following report was broadcast in English.]

[Text] The members of the leadership council of the Lebanese Hizballah movement and the body's secretary general, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, met with Foreign Minister Velayati in Tehran today. At the meeting, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli briefed Mr. Velayati on the developments of Lebanon and the general condition of Lebanese Muslims particularly Shiites. At the same meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in Palestine.

Meet Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2005122890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the leader of the Lebanese Revolutionary Hizballah Movement, and the members of the leadership council of that movement who have come to Tehran to participate in the International al-ol Bayt [family of the prophet] conference, were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. They submitted a report on the latest developments on the Lebanese and regional scenes to the president.

Present Report to Yazdi

LD2005202290 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—The judiciary head Sunday [20 May] announced the Islamic Republic's readiness to provide Lebanese Mojahedin with all possible facilities, and called for continued resistance operations against the enemy. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi in a meeting with Lebanon's Hizballah Council at the judiciary building, said "the Islamic revolution has taught many lessons to us" which should be taken into careful consideration. Paying attention to the Muslim people's demands and views is another important issue to be taken into account, said the ayatollah, and noted that it is natural for Muslims of every region to call for Islam's sovereignty because of their "inborn nature."

A Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli presented a report to Ayatollah Yazdi on the latest developments in Lebanon, stressing the need for continued Islamic resistance against the Zionist usurpers.

Shaykh al-Tufayli also declared is "alliance" with the Islamic uprising in Palestine, and placed emphasis on the need for putting an end to all internal disputes in order to strengthen the anti-Zionist and anti-arrogance front.

'Direct, Indirect' Talks Held With Riyadh

LD1905214490 Tehran IRNA in English 2005 GMT 19 May 90

[By Khosrow Soltani; "Iran Holds Direct Talks With Saudis, but Riyadh Doesn't Respect Logic"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Dr. Mohammad Khatami today said that Iran had recently held "direct and indirect" talks with Saudi Arabia over the pilgrimage question. "To show our good-will we sent a delegation to Saudi Arabia in an attempt to remove the hurdle on the way of dispatch of pilgrims (to the holy shrines)," said the minister. He however regretted that "The Saudis stuck to their previous policy and blocked a solution to the problem."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami did not say anything about the level of the Iranian delegation or when it visited Saudi Arabia to hold talks with the Riyadh officials. But foreign media reports quoting Persian Gulf-Based diplomats said earlier Saturday [19 May] that Iran's first deputy foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati had spent last Monday and Tuesday [14 and 15 May] in Riyadh and met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami last month announced Iran's readiness to hold direct or indirect talks with the Saudis to solve the hajj question but he made it clear at the same time that Iran's position would remain unchanged. He said Iranian pilgrims should be allowed to hold rallies in Mecca and al-Medinah.

It is the first reported direct contact between the two countries since 1988 when Tehran and Riyadh severed diplomatic relations following the Mecca massacre.

In July 1987, Saudi security forces brutally gunned down 400-plus Muslim pilgrims in Mecca, mostly Iranians, for holding a routine annual 'antipathy towards pagans' rally. The heinous crime was believed to be an orchestrated scheme by the United States carried out through its Saudi agents in a blatant show of hostility against the Islamic revolution and republic.

Since the tragic incident and after a quota system was imposed by the Hejaz regime reducing the number of pilgrims, Iran has refused to dispatch its pilgrims to the holy shrines. Iran's quota was reduced by two-thirds to 50,000 but Tehran insists to send 150,000 pilgrims or none.

Minister Khatami said the decision to dispatch a delegation to Saudi Arabia to hold talks with the Riyadh government was to enable eager Iranians to perform the hajj ritual, incumbent on every Muslim who can afford it.

"But the Saudi Government holds no respect for logic and has no authority by itself and is under pressure from others," he told reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport upon his return from a tour of Africa and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"The ulema of Islam should not allow the hajj ritual to become an scapegoat for certain governments to carry out their specific policies," Hojatt ol-Eslam Khatami stressed.

Islamic Guidance Minister on Hajj Pilgrimage

NC2005075990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic's efforts on the Iranian pilgrims' trip to the house of God did not yield any results again this year because of the obstinacy of the Saudi Arabian leadership, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance told our correspondent last night. He added:

[Begin Khatami recording] Unfortunately, contrary to what should be done and what the Saudi leadership should do, this tragedy was repeated this year and the Iranian pilgrims have been deprived of their pilgrimage. This was despite all the goodwill steps by the Islamic Republic to pave the way for this trip. Our positions were even endorsed by many statesmen. But the Saudi Government holds no respect for logic.

We feel that the Saudi Government cannot make any decisions on this, and that it is under pressure and has no authority by itself. It continues to insist on its wrongful stand on banning the Iranian pilgrims from carrying out their divine duty. Even though this is a difficult and bitter thing for us, I believe that it is also a tragedy for the entire world of Islam and for all Muslims. This behavior by the Saudi ruler shows that Muslims should truly think about hajj management. The hajj cannot be subject to the specific policies of a government, especially when these policies are invalid and unacceptable and prevent people from carrying out their hajj pilgrimage.

Even though we have severed political relations with them and although it is meaningless in international diplomacy to send a delegation when there are no relations, we did send a delegation there, in addition to direct and indirect talks on this issue, in order to solve the people's problems and to fulfil this important objective. But once again we met with their obstinacy. Unfortunately, this year, too, our pilgrims will be deprived of the hajj pilgrimage because of the Saudi Government's obstructionism.

This may be a warning to the 'ulema of the world of Islam not to allow the hajj—this most important religious-political rutual—to become a scapegoat for the specific policies of some governments. [end recording]

International Hajj Seminars Condemn Saudi Actions

NC2005105490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] A seminar on the hajj, which was held in Dacca, Bangladesh, and attended by more than 500 'ulema and religious scholars and personalities, ended its work after issuing an eight-point resolution. The resolution calls for establishing a committee to safeguard the holy shrines, organizing a march for the disavowal of pagans during the hajj ceremonies, and discontinuing quotas on pilgrims. The resolution also emphasized the need to hold a world Islamic trial to try those responsible for the martyrdom of the pilgrims to the house of God in 1987.

The Central News Unit reports that the speakers at the seminar pointed to the revival of the tradition of the Prophet, peace be upon him and his scion, by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his grave be sanctified, in disavowing the pagans. They described the Al Sa'ud family as imperialist puppets and called on world Muslims to form a committee comprising ulema of Islamic countries to oversee the holy shrines.

The report states that the participants in the seminar pointed out that the house of God is in the hands of the enemies of Islam, who have taken upon themselves the task of introducing laws for all Muslims. They referred to the transformation of the genuine hajj into a U.S.-style hajj by the Al Sa'ud family. Condemning the Al Sa'ud family's massacre of the pilgrims to the house of God, they called for a world day for the liberation of the holy shrines.

Another international seminar on the hajj was held in Cape Town, South Africa, and attended by a number of 'ulema, scholars, and Muslims. The seminar emphasized the need for decisive action by the world Muslims to reveal the U.S. and Zionist plots aimed at transforming the nature of the hajj pilgrimage.

(Ibrahim David), Cape Town congregation mosque imam, spoke about the revival of Muslim grandeur, pride, and identity by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his grave be sanctified, and pointed to the transformation of genuine Muhammedan Islam into U.S.-style Islam. He stated that the Saudi rulers are constantly trying to present an empty hajj as the true hajj to the Islamic world.

(Muhammad al-Asi), congregation imam of the Washington mosque, also condemned the Al Sa'ud regime's massacre of the pilgrims in the sanctity of the house of God and pointed to the need to disavow the pagans during the hajj ritual. He added: If Mecca and al-Medinah become centers against polytheism and arrogance, the problems of oppression and of the supremacy of big powers over Islamic countries will disappear.

Foreign Ministry Assails Saudi Move on Hajj

LD2005120790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The statement of our country's Foreign Ministry in connection with the Saudi regime's prevention of Iranian Muslims from performing their religious duty of hajj is the subject of our first news report, to which I draw your attention:

According to the statement: For the third consecutive year, the Saudi regime has prevented Iranian Muslims from undertaking the sacred duty of hajj. In the course of the three years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not hesitated in taking any action which may open the way to the holy house of God and to the departure of Iranian pilgrims for the performance of the hajj of Abraham and Mohammad; and it has replied positively to any mediation effort by the leaders of the countries in the region and other friendly countries. And despite the existence of serious doubts about the house of Sa'ud's goodwill in making such suggestions, since it was a question of the performance of the most important divine duty of Muslims, it examined such suggestions with a positive outlook so that it may both become clear to the mediators that the Saudi government continues to block the path of God and that it [the Islamic Republic] should have a clear conscience before the Muslim Iranian nation, with their great love for the performance of Mohammad's hajj and for pilgrimage to the holy sanctuaries.

This year, too, efforts were made, with and without mediation—in the form of mediatory efforts by Muslim dignitaries and friendly countries and also in the form of links between the two countries' representatives—toward the resolution of the problem. Each time, however, the Saudi regime thwarted the efforts either with excuses or with inaction.

The last instance was the presentation of a Saudi proposal by one of the leaders of the countries of the region. The proposal was accepted in principle by the Islamic Republic of Iran. When contacts were made for finalizing it and when the groundwork was prepared for signing an agreement for Iranian pilgrims for this year and future years in which the Islamic Republic of Iran's principles would be safeguarded and the Saudi government's anxieties about security would also be overcome, giving the excuse that that country had misrepresented the matter, the Saudis changed their stance. And for the third consecutive year, they blocked the departure of Iranian pilgrims for the performance of Mohammad's hajj.

Now the argument has become clear to everyone that the hajj has become a plaything in the hands of the Saudi rulers and that the view of all the 'ulema [communities] of the various Islamic sects about the way in which the holy sanctuaries should be run during the hajj—that is, an issue which belongs to the world of Islam—does not have the slightest impact; thus, the possibility of performing Abraham's and Mohammad's hajj, of which the disavowal of infidels is an indisputable part, does not exist; and this in circumstances in which the Islamic Republic of Iran guarantees security in the course of the congregation of Muslism and the disavowal of infidels during hajj.

The Saudi regime should have replied to the Muslims of the world as to why, in the greatest gathering of the world's Muslims, cries should not be raised against the United States, Israel and other satanic powers: a United States, whose House of Representatives considers the Islamic holy land as the capital of the Jewish government and an Israel which massacres Muslim Palestinians, drives them from their homes, and replaces them with Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry announces: The act of the Saudi regime in preventing the departure of Iranian pilgrims for hajj and hindering the performance of their duty to inform other Muslims of the world about their responsibilities regarding the liberation of Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan and the mobilization of public opinion in the Islamic world against the ploys of Islam's enemies has no meaning other than that the Saudi regime considers the awakening of Muslims as disrupting its own security.

Ministry Spokesman on 'Massacre' of Palestinians

NC2105075090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Following the savage massacre of Muslim Palestinian workers by soldiers of the regime occupying Jerusalem, our Foreign Ministry spokesman spoke to a correspondent of the Central News Unit about the fresh wave of massacres of Muslims in occupied Palestine. He stated: Reports from occupied Palestine continue to reveal the numerous crimes and plots against the Muslims and the flagrant violation of human rights.

He added: Reports indicate that after a Zionist soldier fired at Muslim Palestinian workers, which resulted in the martyrdom of a number of defenseless Palestinian workers, the savage soldiers of the regime occupying Jerusalem—working within the framework of a calculated plot—carried out a more extensive armed attack on the Muslims who were protesting this savage act. They fired directly at the crowd, martyring eight protestors and wounding 100.

This fresh crime proves that the occupied territories can only be liberated if all Palestinian groups form a united

front beside the Muslims of Palestine and the world and fight against the Zionist enemy and oust it from the occupied territories.

In conclusion, our Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned these inhuman crimes and drew the attention of all those who defend human rights to the astonishing and despicable dimensions of the Zionist regime's acts. He called on all humanitarian people who are sincere in their beliefs to halt the planned crimes daily perpetrated against the defenseless Palestinian Muslims.

ETTELA'AT Views Criticism of Mohajerani

NC1805161590 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Apr 90 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "Let Us First Chart the Course of Talks With Friends"]

[Text] Even if the view our respectable brother Mr. Mohajerani stated in his article "Direct Talks" is not wrong for some reasons, it is wrong for others.

The situation prevailing among the existing factions in our country is a good example. The friends who believe in Islam, the revolution, the system, and the leadership and have undertaken—under the charter of brotherhood by his eminence the imam—not to forget the principle of friendship and fraternity even if their views and acts are criticized, distance themselves from each other. They aim so-called barrages of criticism at each other and open unsparing fire at each other as though this is what direct talks (not with the enemy but with a friend) calls for.

Today newspapers are like heavy artillery in our hands which we use to fire at each other. And when it comes to many important economic, political, and cultural stands, not only do we not talk with each other in a serious and resolute way, but we are not prepared to make the slightest concession either!

It is some time now that we have been fighting against imperialism in words. But when it comes to deeds, the truth is that we have chosen to fight with each other instead of against imperialism. It is as though we cannot live without an enemy. If one day we have a shortage of enemies, then we will chose an enemy from among our friends and associates to fill this gap and give us someone to fight with.

Frankly, each of us has, in deed, chosen his friend under the labels of imperialism and Zionism. We say that we are fighting against imperialism and world arrogance, but we are actually waging this war against our own selves!

Moreover, the first condition for direct or indirect talks is to respect ethical values when facing friend or foe. When some of us are not faithful to this condition—which is a must for talks—then what is the meaning of talks?! Someone stated his personal opinion in the "Viewpoint" column. Deciding whether this opinion is right or wrong requires discussion and logic. The following is a list of the accusations and insults that have been made against the author of the "Viewpoint" column thus far:

—A crow had some cheese..!
—A crow wanted...to sing!
—Bravo to this political logic!...(What does this mean?!)
—Once you were known as brother Mohajerani...(What does this mean?!)
—Have you possibly fallen in love under the influence of mystic poetry and traditional music? (What does this mean?!)
—Does America tell you to freeze where you are so it can help you overcome the immense damages of the war?! This can be done only if we are more servile than Saddam. When I say you I mean Mr. Mohajerani, and I call and you respond...(What does this mean?!)
—Do you remember the tale of the quail and the farmer...excuse me Mr. Mohajerani for talking about a children's tale to someone of your great education. (What is the meaning of this?!)
—I have one piece of advice for you. Never hope to see Mr. Husni Mubarak in Tehran or hope to go to Cairo in your capacity as vice president...(What does this mean?!)
—In the history of the world and of man, talks have always required justification and people have not been so thoughtless as you.
—Mr. Mohajerani's call is that we go one step further than Iraq in servitude to America and become valuable pawns for America on the diplomatic scene.
—What he wants to say is that we should bow down before America and ask for mercy and depend on the great Satan.
—Mr. Mohajerani wants to take the place of the messages conveyed by the "Weekly Political Newsletter."
—The author should say where his deviational thoughts came from and, at a time when a wave of hatred has swelled among the public and the officials, he should say with whose mouth he is speaking.
—If the author's name had not appeared on the article, no one would have doubted that it was the product of the forumlas preached by the country's liberals or that it was brought out of the hat of the Hojjatiyeh Association, or that Sa'idi-Sirjani....[incomplete sentence as published]
—What can one say about such wishful thinking as this?
—Islam was shown disrespect; the revolution was shown disrespect; the imam's path was betrayed. Where have our zeal and ardor gone?
—With God's help we will stifle these wretched and servile voices, no matter whose mouth is uttering them and no matter the label under which these statements are made.
—This article is a link in the chain that has penetrated the body of the Islamic revolution like a scourge. It is also a current that has not believed in the antiblasphemous principles of the Islamic revolution and the ideas of the imam and the Iranian nation has seen it manifested in the form of...[incomplete sentence as published]

—The gist of the article is the downfall of the system and the death of the Islamic revolution.
—Undoubtedly the publication of such articles is a scourge on the sacred body of public opinion, whose wounds cannot be healed even with water from the sacred stream of Zamzam; such wounds cannot be healed unless you repent!
—If the measures called for in this article are taken, we will be creating a corrupt rule and dishonoring the blood shed by the martyrs. This is tantamount to apologizing to America and destroying the movement and the revolution.

We think that this list is sufficient to show how close is the distance between blasphemy and faith, between a servant and a traitor, and between a dissident and someone whose blood may be shed with impunity. There may not even be any distance at all! Meanwhile, by listing these examples, you can see how the intention was first to chart the course of talks between friends so that we can later proceed to charting the course of talks with foes!!

ETTELA'AT Stand on Mohajerani Said 'Mistake'

NC1805170890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Chicanery"]

[Text] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful.

After two days of silence, our dear colleagues at ETTELA'AT finally decided to resort to chicanery and attempt to conceal their mistake in publishing the article "Direct Talks" by raising marginal issues. Would it not have been better if these dear colleagues had confessed that they had commited a mistake and asked the revolutionary and brave nation to forgive them? The gist of the article "Direct Talks" was "a declaration of the bankruptcy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a request for forgiveness from the United States." Would it not have been better if the brothers who permitted the publication of this article had not resorted to chicanery and insisted on their mistake, but had instead explicitly asked the forgiveness of a great nation which sacrificed everything it had to oust America and its servant the shah and promised that they would not commit such a mistake ever again? Can one use public property against the firm principles of the revolution and even against the policy declared by the leader of the revolution and, at the same time, praise oneself and accuse those who consider it their Islamic and revolutionary duty to oppose such overtly wrong actions of being unethical?

Our dear brothers at ETTELA'AT may believe, like some, that the principles declared by the imam, may his grave be sanctified, lost strength after his demise. Even if they do believe this, they cannot ignore the remarks by the current leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, which represent the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He recently stated: "After the regime occupying Jerusalem, the American Government is the most detested regime in the eyes of the Iranian nation and as long as America continues to base its policy on lies, deceit, and treachery, to support the despicable Zionist regime, and to continue oppressing the world's oppressed nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not negotiate or establish ties with America."

Observe how this sentence clearly states the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward America, how emphasis is placed on "negotiations" and "relations," and how both are negated under the conditions stated. In view of this, can one resort to claims that "someone stated his personal opinion in the 'Viewpoint' column" and thus ignore the significance of the issue and even attack those who opposed this article?

An even more important matter is that the author of the article, in view of his position as vice president, should have realized that this article could be interpreted as the view of the president and, ultimately, of the Islamic Republic. In this case, the matter cannot be closed merely by using the words "personal opinion" without considering the repercussions of this opinion. If these brothers paid attention to what Westerners are saying these days, they would not allow themselves to kick up so much dust artificially in an attempt to conceal everything.

In the past three days, three colleagues closest to his excellency the president questioned him about the article "Direct Talks." He responsed to each of these three persons—after expressing displeasure over the publication of this article—by saying: The contents of the article do not have anything to do with me.

This was conveyed to our dear brothers at ETTELA'AT in the hope that they would try to make amends. Unfortunately, instead of making amends, they preferred the method of chicanery and are unwilling to recognize the damaging consequences such methods can have.

ETTELA'AT's editorial yesterday alleged that "today newspapers are like heavy artillery in our hands which we use to fire at each other."

We do not accept this allegation. All our colleagues in the press world have worked together in a peaceful and fraternal atmosphere. However, this peace and fraternity extends only until there is a threat to our aspirations. When our brothers in ETTELA'AT open fire at revolutionary aspirations, they should not expect their press colleagues to remain silent. We have promised our revolutionary people that we will uncompromisingly oppose any effort to harm our revolutionary aspirations and that we will not display unearned respect for anyone simply because of his position. We are faithful to our promise. At the same time, apart from this serious discussion of aspirations, we are extremely sincere with our colleagues in ETTELA'AT and we believe that we can perform our duties much better in this way. Meanwhile, since yesterday's ETTELA'AT editorial also refers to Sa'idi-Sirjani in the list of "accusations" and

"insults," it seems that either we have been successful in our task or our brothers in ETTELA'AT have reviewed their "viewpoint" about this person. Either development is to be welcomed.

Further Criticism of Mohajerani

NC1805173890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 May 90 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Chicanery Again"]

[Text] The more extensive the discussions and exchange of views on topical issues, the better and more useful this is, so long as these discussions and views are not propounded in an egotistical, dogmatic, or accusatory manner.

The author of the article "Direct Talks," like those who defend him, (Note: It would seem that he now has another defender who published his article in the left hand column on page 18 of KEYHAN yesterday) committed yet another act chicanery in defending himself against the sweeping criticism of the public and the various strata—from newspaper editors to students to Majles deputies. Naturally, this diminishes the value of this defense. In a comment yesterday he stated that his excellency the president had rejected any connection with the article "Direct Talks" and refuted the allegation that the president had expressed displeasure over the publication of this article...and said that "the view of the respectable president of the republic is that people should be able to express their views in society." The conclusion that the author of the article draws from this is that "the respectable editor of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI is not expected to distort the opinions of others and fabricate falsehoods."

This is the very chicanery we are talking about. The JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI article stated that because of the position the author holds, the repercussions of this article for the president led to the expression of displeasure and that this, while a fact, does not deny individuals the freedom to express their views if these views do not have the repercussions that the said article had.

It is hoped that the author of "Direct Talks" had not, for one reason or another, realized this point and made the accusation of falsehood unknowingly and unintentionally. At any rate, we pray to God Almighty to forgive him.

In yesterday's article, the author of "Direct Talks" described the criticism directed at him as defamatory. While considering himself immune from making any mistakes, he adopted the stand of a social psychologist and assumed the responsibility of dissecting the malady of "whipping up an atmosphere and rabble-rousing!"

Disregard the fact that he is vice president, disregard how far he goes in his self-praise when he refers to his position as head of the Socio-Cultural Commission of the Supreme Council for National Security, and disregard his description of all those who criticize him as suffering from the malady of "whipping up an atmosphere and rabble-rousing." The important question is: How can someone, in the face of widespread opposition to his views from the various strata of people—from the press to university students to Majlis deputies—insist on the correctness of his views and trust his own sanity? Isn't someone who, in the face of the strong criticism from the public, obstinately states that "I consider the article 'Direct Talks' as one of the highlights of my political and journalistic writings" a greater rabble-rouser than anyone else? Psychologists consider "obstinacy" to be a leading mental illness. Will the author of the article "Direct Talks" solve anything by accusing others of "obstinacy"?!

Meanwhile, it should also be pointed out that the author of "Direct Talks" stated in his article yesterday that "I am not one of those who write articles to order." Obviously, the same applies to others too. However, if articles are to be written to order, naturally domestic orders are better than foreign orders!

ABRAR Comments on Mohajerani Article

NC1805193490 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 May 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The United States, the 1,000-Faced Monster"]

[Text] By reiterating the need for continued struggle against world oppression, which is spearheaded by the United States, and by once again displaying his revolutionary fervor and rejection of compromise, the leader of the Islamic revolution has strengthened the determination of domestic circles to continue their campaign against oppression.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's remarks have once again ripped the veil off the 1,000 faces of the White House echelons and revealed the unchangeable nature of the United States. The release of some Western hostages by a group of Lebanese combatants, effected with the moral influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the humanitarian efforts of the Islamic system, resulted in the U.S. propaganda apparatus' capitalizing on this action in order to whip up the desired atmosphere among its people and public opinion. This was done in order to compensate for the U.S. Government's political defeats in the past week at the hands of revolutionary Iran and to portray Iran as suffering from economic hardships and in need of and anxious for ties with the United States.

According to reports from the United States, that country's mass media, particularly its television networks, gave extensive coverage to the Islamic Republic and the hostage issue with numerous special analyses and reports in an effort to implant a specially tailored stance in the minds of the American people. Meanwhile, the U.S. secretary of state extended an invitation for direct talks, upon which the Western mass media's propaganda rose to new heights.

Following the publication of an opinion in the Iranian press and the subsequent wave of opposition which arose against that particular opinion, U.S. propaganda assumed a new dimension.

The publication of the article "Direct Talks" did not elicit any reaction from the United States for at least 24 hours, but as soon as the first critical reaction to the article appeared, the U.S. media resorted to its usual propaganda tactics about the lack of decision-making power in Iran.

For the past 11 years, the United States has consistently used this same weak political ploy to justify itself with regard to Iran, unaware that all the genuine perplexity, fear, and frenzy which mention of ties with the United States arouses is merely an indication of the affirmation of the path of the imam—may God be pleased with him—in revolutionary Iran, and its continuation in the form of the government of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult]; that is, the strongest decision-making power in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The remarks by the leader of the revolution, in fact, cooled the heated U.S. propaganda and brought about its humiliation, once again proving that the ploys of the White House are by nature inherently untrustworthy. U.S. President George Bush's statement yesterday that the four Iranian hostages were no longer alive can be considered the first U.S. reaction to the Islamic Republic of Iran's uncompromising stance. Only recently, U.S. pawn Michel 'Awn had said that the Iranian hostages were alive and given the location where they were being held. He said groups affiliated to Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, and Fu'ad Malik were responsible for taking them hostage.

By announcing that the Iranian hostages were no longer alive, the U.S. President considered himself exonerated from any reciprocal display of goodwill for the release of the Western hostages, although his statement is really a response to Iran's uncompromising stance. What is most important for the revolutionary Iranian nation is the truth of the fact that the malice of the U.S. hydra-headed monster against the Islamic revolution has not abated and never will.

Musavi-Ardebili Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

LD1805130290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] On the threshold of the martyrdom of the epitome of learning and piety, the founder of the Ja'fari [Twelver Shiite] faith, His Holiness Imam Ja'far Sadiq, peace be on him, Muslim compatriots today held the politico-religious rites of the Friday prayers throughout the country. Meanwhile, the people of Tehran held the politico-religious Friday prayer under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili.

In the prayer sermons the provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran explained the meaning of sound economics from the point of view of Islam and said: At this sensitive juncture in the history of the country, at a time when economic problems in our society are being debated seriously, it is the religious, revolutionary, and humane duty of every individual to rush to the assistance of the government to help the officials in their efforts to eradicate economic problems, shortages, and rising prices.

Referring to the voices which stem from a dependent economy in various dimensions, voices stemming from an economy which lacks independence, he stressed: If we really want to have a sound economy we must rely on our own resources to remove the shortages; we must make efforts to participate in the sacred crusade which is the reconstruction of the economy of the country and removal of the shortfalls stemming from eight years of war. To attain such an objective we must do away with consumerism which is a social malaise. Otherwise, if we submit to consumerism, a love of luxury and squandering, then no matter how much the officials may try the result would be nill. Consumerism and the love of luxury constitute a part of the vulgar Western culture. In the Islamic culture we do not approve of consumerism. Thriftiness, shunning waste and squandering make up part of the rich culture of Islam. That is why we must fully utilize the material and spiritual resources of the country in an effort to arrive at a sound and independent economy. We must do so by engaging in all-out efforts rather than indulging in sloganeering.

In the second sermon of the prayers the provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran emphasized the expanded and unyielding campaign against monkarat [deeds prohibited by Islam] and then said: The importance which Islam attaches to the campaign against monkarat is such that such an importance is not attached to other issues. That is why the punishment for monkarat, from the point of view of Islam, is harsher than other types of punishment.

Stressing the toward monkarat, social voices, and laxity in adherence to hijab [Islamic dress code] there must not be the slightest degree of mercy, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili referred to the efforts of the Pahlavi regime during the past 50 years to encourage the spread of monkarat in society. He then said: We must make every effort to expand ever more the culture of anti-monkarat.

Referring to the satisfactory results of the campaign against addiction and smuggling of narcotics, he expressed hope that the efforts of the relevant officials will lead to the eradication of that scourge.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili, in another part of the second sermon, referred to the anniversary of the attack by the Pahlavi executioners against the Qom Feyziyeh seminary and the slaughter of the 'ulema and students of that seminary, holding their memory in esteem. He also referred to the first anniversary of the demise of the great

leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, which is approaching. He expressed the hope that the Muslim nation of Iran will continue on the path charted by him, staying the course of the glorious Islamic revolution.

Majles Approves Clauses of Bill on Khomeyni Works

LD1605130190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 90

[Excerpt] The Majles today, in an open session, put on its agenda a private members' bill on adding new clauses to the Law of Ways and Means of Preserving the Works and Memory of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. The bill was submitted on a single priority notice. A number of its articles were approved.

According to one of the clauses already approved, a prison sentence of six months to three years or a corporal punishment of 35 to 74 lashes together with 50,000 to 500,000 rials fine, or both, will apply to any person who is found guilty of fraudulently distorting and tampering with the works of his holines the imam, whether his written works or otherwise. The fraudulent distortion is applicable whether it is forgery, or misrepresentation, or distortion in general. That sentence applies also to anybody who knowingly prints and publishes the forged and distorted works [of Imam Khomeyni].

According to a note of that clause, the forged works will be destroyed and the [guilty] publication or newspaper will, by the order of the court, be suspended for one day to five days in the first instance and for five to 15 days in the second instance. In the later stages [the publication or newspaper] will be closed down by the order of the court.

According to another clause of the bill, anybody who knowingly engages in destroying or damaging the original or unique copies of the written works of his holiness the imam, or does so in the case of nonwritten works such as audio-visual works, such a person will, in addition to being required to compensate for the damages inflicted, be sentenced to a prison term of four months to two years, or corporal punishment of 10 to 30 lashes together with 20,000 to 200,000 rials in fines, or both of the punishments. [passage omitted]

Ends Debate on Tampering Law

LD2005143690 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—The Majles today ended its debate on a proposed amendment to the law on preservation of the works and memory of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeini.

According to the bill, anybody who intentionally tampers with the late imam's works or makes and distributes distorted pictures, films, statues and tapes will be punished as envisaged by the law.

The Islamic revolutionary courts and courthouses have been authorized to investigate such offences immediately and the concerned judicial authorities can check with the institute for compilation and publication of the late imam's works, on whether the works are genuine or otherwise.

Paper Decries 'Politically Bankrupt Elements'

LD1905121190 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—An Iranian daily Saturday urged the judicial authorities to take serious actions against the nationalists who always move in the direction of the U.S. conspiracies against Iran.

The editorial in JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that the U.S. has always pinned hope on the nationalists as tools for executing its colonial conspiracies. It added, "the nationalists, now more openly and more seriously, have become American tools and have shamelessly become highly demanding of the (Islamic) revolution."

The daily called attention to two points: First, this time too like in the past 11 years, the West has wrongly assessed the developments in the Islamic Republic.

"The comparison they make between the Islamic Republic of Iran and certain other countries is indicative of their inability to comprehend the reality and their incompetency to analyze the situation in Iran. They have made similar mistakes in the past 11 years without being able to find the reason for their miscalculation. The popular support the revolution enjoys and the system's reliance on the nation are something beyond comprehension of the Westerners. This is because they get their information from those who are alienated from the masses," said the editorial.

The second point, the paper added, is "how the security and judiciary systems of the country are going to deal with these politically bankrupt elements. How long and to what extent such elements are to enjoy Islamic mercy?"

It believed, "indecisive acts against such traitors will embold them to the extent that they become very demanding of the revolution." The paper asked whether it was not time "the judiciary and security organs of the country unveil the mask of such corrupt and subservient elements and punish them accordingly?"

The paper said in conclusion, "the nation is now demanding a serious measure against these elements. The revolution's interests does not allow toleration of nuisance elements and the fifth column in its reconstruction era."

Accuses 'Liberals' of Plotting With U.S.

NC1905145290 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 19 (AFP)—A leading newspaper here accused the liberal opposition Saturday [19 May] of plotting with the United States to overthrow Iran's Islamic government. "The plot is to be carried out by the Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI) and the Association to Defend the Freedom and Sovereignty of Iran," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, a newspaper close to Islamic hardliners. Both are seen as liberal opposition groups.

"Several members of the LMI recently discussed this plot in the United States with two members of the American Congress," the paper said, citing the backing of the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. financial support. It said the alleged plot would be launched with the "publication of an open letter in which the liberals would aim to exaggerate the economic and social problems in Iran and accuse the regime's leaders of repression."

A group of 90 liberal figures have sent an open letter to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to condemn what they called the "new tyranny" in Iran, The Independent newspaper reported Thursday [17 May]. The group included Mehdi Bazargan, president of the LMI and a former prime minister under Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, and 14 of his former ministers, the British daily said.

Defense Industries To Convert to Civilian Use

LD1805134390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] Through implementation of a project, 60 percent of facilities and equipment belonging to the country's defense industries organization will be used in production of non-military industries.

The Industries Ministry deputy in charge of industrial and production affairs, in an interview with the IRNA correspondent in Mashhad, said the aim of the project is to reconstruct parts of the country's big industrial and production plants. He added: In this project Defense Ministry facilities, including electronic industries, communications, computers, and computerised cutting machines used in production of tools, as well as expert and highly skilled manpower, will be employed in the production of machinery for sugar, flour, cooking oil, and other production industries.

Subsidies Announced for Essential Goods

LD1905131290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] A sum of 320 billion rials has been allocated during the current year by the consumers and producers' protection organization to subsidize essential commodities in the interest of consumers. One of the members of the management board of that organization in an interview with the IRNA correspondent in Mashhad, announcing this, added: This allocation, which shows a growth of 100 percent compared to last year, is intended for subsidizing the price of sugar, sugar cubes, vegetable oil, imported rice, laundry detergent, flour and bread, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, milk, sugar-beet quality differential [as heard] and the cost of transporting essential commodities to rural areas.

He also said: in order to support the producers of essential goods, if increasing the price of such goods is regarded as essential on a principled and reasonable assessment, after investigation a price increase in the producing companies will be implemented. However, this price increase will not be passed on to the consumers.

Finally, the member of the management board of consumers and producers' protection organization said: Goods which are presented by making use of competitive foreign exchange will not be covered by the pricing regulations of this organization and they are also exempt from the distribution regulations.

President on Development of Telecommunications

LD1705112790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] On the occasion of International Communications Day, today Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, attended the gathering of officials from the Post, Telegraph, and Telephone (PTT) Ministry, directors-general of that ministry from various parts of the country, staff from the country's Communications Organization, and managers of communications production companies. In that meeting, he described communications as the central nervous system of the society in its role in good management of affairs, and in speeding up and facilitating the execution of tasks. He said: Every week and every month our people witness the inauguration of a new telephone exchange center in the country. And in view of long distances and problematic transport route, the services of the Communications Organization are worthy of praise.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then pointed that during the reign of the past regime 800,000 telephone exchanges were provided to the people, whereas in 10 years after the revolution, the figure reached 2,500,000 telephone lines. Further, within the course of the Five-Year Plan the same number of telephones will be provided. Addressing the staff present, he said: this requires a basiji [mobilization] type of movement, and you do have the ability to carry out such a task. The president added: Today the policy is that the country's resources should be evenly divided among the provinces, and for that purpose, the presence of the Islamic revolution in remote areas can be felt to a greater extent. He then pointed to the cheap rate of government services, including telephones, and said: in addition to the manpower and rial

costs, every telephone line costs $2,000 in foreign currency. The efforts of the offspring of this nation in the Communications Organization is a good example of utilization of world's advanced technology in the service of people.

According to the same report, the PTT minister Mr. Gharazi in that meeting presented a report about the performance of his ministry during the last ten years. He said: Before the victory of the Islamic revolution, there was only one telephone line for every 20 people. At present the zero digit, needed for inter-city communication, is available up to 85 percent [as heard]. Further, problems in telephone communication will be resolved before the end of the current year [ending 20 March 1991]. He added: From the beginning of 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] onwards, the Communications Organization has become self-sufficient as far its budget is concerned. This year it will help the government budget with a sum of 50 billion rials.

*Paper 'Reveals' Role of Palestinians in Revolution

90AS0048A London KEYHAN in Persian
26 Apr 90 pp 12, 8

[Text] With the publication of a confidential six-page report by the French government, for the first time an official government document reveals the secret interference of the Palestinian terrorist organization in starting the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979], the management of security and other affairs of the country by the PLO in the first two years after the revolution, the planning of the murder of the political opponents of the regime with the cooperation of the Palestinian terrorists, and finally the significant role of Hani al-Hasan, the Palestinian ambassador in Tehran, in the events of the years following the revolution (including the taking of the American diplomats hostage in their own embassy).

This six-page report was submitted to Jacques Chirac in late March 1986, only a few days after he became the French premier, by Jean Bernard Raymond. But its publication was postponed until a few weeks ago.

The goal of this report was to prepare the new French prime minister for the conflicts following the arrest of a terrorist group led by Anis Naqqash in July 1980, that arose among the heads of the former government of that country with the Islamic Republic.

This report that had been kept confidential so far was revealed and published on 18 April 1990 by the widely-read newspaper LE FIGARO. The publication of the above-mentioned report in France attracted so much attention that French television's Channel 6 also produced and broadcast a detailed program based on the report called "The Sword and Scale," which showed the weakness and impotence of the justice system of a "government law" (French) with regard to a government of terrorism and the interference of the diplomatic officials of France in the process of justice in regard to terrorists.

The writer of the confidential report (which is dated 27 March 1986) is [Nikola] Lang, a French economic and financial expert who worked at the time for a famous bank and was the secret and unofficial contact between the French government in the negotiations with Khomeyni's regime and the terrorists affiliated with him to free the French hostages in Lebanon. From about 12 years ago since the start of his post, Lang was a close friend of Hani al-Hasan, who is considered to be close to Yasir 'Arafat, perhaps his most important adviser. He was also the PLO's ambassador in Tehran years after the revolution. Lang had been conferred by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to negotiate with the regime of Khomeyni.

Lang's report is a detailed description of all the secret negotiations and discussions which took place between Paris and Tehran from 1980-1986, and its goal was to familiarize Jacques Chirac with the history of the issue at the time he took over the premiership and took charge of the "file" on the relations with the Islamic Republic. In his report, Lang discusses the very close relations between the headquarters of 'Arafat's Palestinian organization and those close to Khomeyni and proves that not only are the officials of the Islamic Republic guided by the Palestinians, but the Palestinians carry out some of their duties. Even to help the Islamic Republic for the release of Anis Naqqash and his group, the Palestinians carry out carefully planned avenging operations against France: Placing bombs in French high-speed trains and passenger airplanes, killing French persons, kidnapping and taking hostages in France and Lebanon.

Finally, this report reveals that in May 1985, the Islamic Republic expressed its interest in exchanging five Palestinian hostages who were in Lebanon at the time for five members of the Bakhtiar terrorist group. The report verifies that the officials of the Islamic Republic said explicitly that such an exchange must take place through Yasir 'Arafat personally.

Now, the major parts of this important report, which reveals new secrets concerning the support of the Islamic Republic for terrorism and cooperation with Palestinian terrorists follows.

Lang writes:

"After Khomeyni came to power, I had the opportunity to travel to Tehran several times. During these visits (from 1979-1980), I met with the most important officials of the Islamic government. Besides Khomeyni, whom I met in Qom, I spoke with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is now the speaker of the Majles; Beheshti, who was killed later; Bani-Sadr, who is now in exile; Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of the imam; Montazeri, who has been selected as Khomeyni's successor; and Rafiqdust, who is now the minister of the Guards Corps.... All these

meetings were made possible through the kindness of Hani al-Hasan, who was at the time the PLO ambassador in Tehran."

"It should be known that before Khomeyni came to power, the role that the Palestinians played was very important. They trained all the future cadres of Khomeyni's regime in the PLO camps in Lebanon. The Palestinians were the "advisors" to the supporters of Khomeyni in organizing the street demonstrations and the chaos and riots that led to the fall of the monarchy in Iran."

Hani al-Hasan, Khomeyni's Special Advisor

Lang adds in his report:

"Hani al-Hasan personally helped a great deal. We might say that from 1979 to the end of 1980, he was Khomeyni's 'advisor,' an advisor many of whose recommendations were acted upon by Khomeyni. Also, it must be emphasized that all the officials of the Islamic Republic knew about the close relationship between Khomeyni and Hani al-Hasan. Hence, they tried openly to gain the support of Hani al-Hasan. On the other hand, the Palestinians who had opened an office in Tehran acted as 'advisors' or 'instructors' to the 'revolutionary' forces. The 'military attache' of the PLO was in charge of training the Guards Corps. Finally, Hani al-Hasan and the Palestinians played an important role in taking the diplomats at the U.S. embassy hostage in Tehran. In 1979 and 1980, the Palestinians were important elements in organizing the 'Islamic committees.' They were in charge of both the internal and external security of the Islamic Republic. This caused the Palestinians to have an essential share in some of the terrorist operations of the regime of Khomeyni abroad, including the operations to try to kill Shapur Bakhtiar in Paris in 1980."

"In late August 1980, I received a message from Hashemi-Rafsanjani through Hani al-Hasan, who had asked to meet with me in Tehran. Hani al-Hasan took me to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's residence. Hashemi-Rafsanjani introduced me to two of his colleagues, one of whom was Rafiqdust (minister of the Guards Corps). His purpose in this meeting was to talk about the five 'brothers' who had been arrested in Paris in their effort to kill Bakhtiar, the 'Anis Naqqash Group.'"

"Rafsanjani explained to me that killing Bakhtiar as well as General Oveysi was in conformity with a 'decree' from the imam—which is considered a religious mandate.... Hence, France should not interfere in this regard, and consequently in order to show goodwill towards the Islamic revolution, it should free the 'five brothers' and send them out of France."

"That same evening we held a meeting in a place that had previously been the shah's audience palace, but was now quite a shambles. Rafiqdust pointed out the place where Hoveyda and the chief of SAVAK had been executed. (The writer's information in this regard appears to be wrong, as he seems to have mistaken Qasr Prison for the shah's palace, or perhaps Rafiqdust had lied to him for some reason, claiming that Hoveyda and Nasiri had been killed in the shah's audience palace—translator.) Laughing, he showed me a revolver and said: 'They were executed with this revolver.'"

"Rafiqdust then showed me a pool and said, 'We planned the killing of Bakhtiar. This plan failed, but left some victims behind. Hence, we are prepared to pay the damages and blood money to the survivors of this incident. Also, we would like our "five brothers" to meet with their families, see their defense attorneys, and so on.'"

(The Channel 6 program on French television showed an interview with a policeman injured in the course of the assassination attempt on Shapur Bakhtiar who will remain crippled for the rest of his life. Concerning the suggestion to receive damages from the Islamic Republic, he said: "I shall never accept money from these murderers. These are filthy people, and their money is as filthy as they are. They must be punished.")

"Rafiqdust added: But the most important issue is that arrangements be made as soon as possible to have them leave France. If not, their French-Iranian relatives will suffer serious consequences. This is what the imam wants."

"I promised to inform the French officials of his demands.... After this meeting, Hani al-Hasan told me that the whole incident of the assassination attempt on Bakhtiar was upon Khomeyni's instruction and with their full cooperation. He said: The plan was executed badly, but in any case, we must try to resolve the problem in France in the best possible manner."

"When I was in Tehran, the Iran-Iraq war started. After visiting with Rafiqdust and Hashemi-Rafsanjani one more time and also meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, who had come to Tehran as a mediator (and whose efforts failed), I returned to France."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Behind the Scene of the Assassinations in France

Lang continues:

"Again in 1981 and 1983, I met with the envoy of the Islamic Republic. He was sent by Rafiqdust, who was worried about the fate of his 'five brothers.' Their tone was gradually becoming more threatening. The envoy suggested that I meet with Rafiqdust in Vienna, the capital of Austria. I informed 'D' (Bruno Delaye, the technical advisor to Claude Chesson, the French foreign minister at the time). In July 1984, an Air France airplane was hijacked from Germany and taken to Tehran. The hijackers were Guard Corps members under the command of Rafiqdust and in contact with the Palestinians. They demanded the release of their 'five brothers' and said that otherwise, they would execute one French passenger every hour. Only the interference of Abu Khalid, the security service chief of Yasir 'Arafat,

could prevent a tragedy. In order to prevent the killing of the French passengers, Roland Dumas, the European affairs minister of the French government, who was Claude Chesson's deputy in his absence, promised to release the five members of the Anis Naqqash Group. And the PLO guaranteed the promise of the French minister."

"In October 1984, the promise had not yet been fulfilled, and I received a message through Hani al-Hasan from Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who had asked to meet with me as soon as possible in Tehran. Hashemi-Rafsanjani had said in his message that he wanted to talk about the fate of the five terrorists, but, if Paris wanted to, we could also talk about other issues. Considering the increased worsening of French-Iranian relations, I asked Hani al-Hasan to take charge of my security in Tehran if the meeting were to take place. He said that from my departure to my return a 'close colleague of Yasir 'Arafat,' who was their contact with Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Rafiqdust, would be with me. He was Abu Khalid, the chief of Arafat's security service. Hani al-Hasan also informed me that Rafsanjani had said that if France refused to talk about the release of the five terrorists, they would engage in retaliation: terrorist actions in France to destroy police buildings and large stores, against high-speed trains, and against Air France and Air Inter airplanes, the murder of military and civilian personalities, kidnapping and hostage taking in France and Lebanon...."

"In January 1985, Roland Dumas, who had become the minister of foreign affairs, traveled to Tunis and met with Yasir 'Arafat. According to Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat told the French foreign minister that there was a conflict between France and the Palestinians about the five terrorists. Dumas responded that he was trying to resolve the problem and that the issue would undoubtedly end around summer."

"Dumas said (in any case, this is what could be gathered from what he said) that on 14 July, the French national celebration day, the president would use his privilege to pardon the prisoners."

"But they no longer paid attention to vague promises. The terrorist actions began when General [Udran] (high-ranking inspector of the French military industries) was killed and Carton and Fontaine were taken hostage outside Beirut."

Rafiqdust Said: We Will Never Admit

Lang continues:

"In the beginning of May 1985, I received a message from Rafiqdust. He had returned from Damascus where he had met in the private residence of General Klass, a high-ranking French officer, who was an envoy of the Elysee palace (the French presidential palace)."

"Rafiqdust claimed that the French General had asked the officials of the Islamic Republic to intervene in the release of the two French hostages in Beirut. Rafiqdust had responded that the Islamic Republic was by no means involved in this hostage taking, but that he was prepared to try to help France through his 'friends' in Lebanon. But Rafiqdust made me understand that:

1. The Islamic Republic will never admit to participating directly or indirectly in kidnapping and will not endorse them.

2. It is prepared to exchange the two French hostages for three of the five terrorists jailed in France.

3. Any action in this regard must take place through the PLO, that is, Hani al-Hasan and Yasir 'Arafat; otherwise, no deal."

Lang adds at the end of his report:

"I informed 'C' (Jean Claude [Cosseran], who was at the time the deputy to the office of Roland Dumas and then became the second man in the 'French foreign security agency') of Rafiqdust's meeting with the French General and of his message. But much of the time was wasted because Michel Seurat and Jean Paul Kaufman had also been kidnapped. In Tehran, an agent of the Air France company by the name of Albertini was arrested and convicted. As a result, five French hostages were in the hands of the Islamic Republic and the Palestinians, who intended to exchange them for the five terrorists of the Anis Naqqash Group, 'including himself.'"

*Two New Cities Of 300,000 People Created

90AS0057C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas—KEYHAN Correspondent:

In order to settle the rising population of Bandar 'Abbas, two new cities of 300,000 people will be created.

This was announced by Karim Raji, the executive in charge of the plan for one of these cities, and he added: One of the two cities—the preparation of which will begin this year—will be built on 3,000 hectares of land located five kilometers north-west of Bandar 'Abbas. The other one will be built in the west of Bandar 'Abbas on 2,000 hectares of land located north of Martyr Namju township.

The executive in charge of construction of this plan said: Every five years 600 hectares will be designated and prepared for the construction of the new cities. Due to the existence of large industrial plants—the steel mill, the eighth refinery, and shipbuilding—these new cities will be built close to job centers such as the port and shipping, railroad, and collective industries. He said: The lands marked for these plans will be prepared by the new cities Reconstruction Company, which is connected with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and modern urban development techniques will be employed for the construction of the housing units.

*Meshkini: 'Economic Terrorists' Will Hang

90AS0057A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Apr 90 p 18

[Text] Qom—KEYHAN Correspondent—Ayatollah Meshkini, the head of the Assembly of Experts, referred to wealth collectors and hoarders as "Economic Terrorists" and warned them that if they continue with such activities they will be hanged.

Ayatollah Meshkini, speaking at this week's Friday prayer sermon held at Qom's Prayer Mosque, referring to the recent plan of the Islamic Consultative Majles deputies regarding punishment of economic terrorists, said: Wealth collectors and those who hoard essential goods needed by the people for short term profits of a substantial size must be aware that they are living in comfort at the expense of the people's dissatisfaction and suffering. If this situation persists, there will be a time when they will be hanged in groups as economic terrorists, the same as narcotics traffickers.

Therefore, we suggest to the wealthy not to take advantage of God's blessings and [instead] engage in acts through which the people can benefit from their wealth, otherwise they will be subject to God's anger.

Ayatollah Meshkini, the Friday prayer leader of Qom, in continuation asked for extensive participation of the people in the ceremonies marking Jerusalem Day in order to defend the aspirations of the innocent people of this land. He added: By their powerful participation in demonstrations, the Moslem people of Iran and Moslems from other parts of the world will show that Islam is still well and alive and will stand up to aggressors and oppressors. The Friday prayer leader of Qom then pointed to the migration of the Soviet Jews to Israel and said: Today, the East and West, based on a joint decision against the Palestinian Moslems, have decided to come to the aid of the Zionist regime and by transporting Jews put this innocent nation in minority. Regretfully, the so-called Islamic governments have not shown any reaction to these activities. He added: It is required of the Moslem nations of the world to render the enemy unsuccessful in regard to this decision by their all-encompassing support [for Palestinian Muslims]. Then, while praising the Islamic Revolutionary Committee for their activities, Ayatollah Meshkini asked that the people continue their cooperation with this organization in order to fight the symbols of corruption in the society. Then, in regard to Assistance for the Expansion of Training Atmosphere Week, he pointed out the shortages of special camps for guest students in the city district of Qom and said: It is necessary for the charitable people to cooperate with the officials to create such centers so that, God willing, there are no problems in regard to training activities [aimed at] the youth.

This report indicates that the Friday prayer leader of Qom, in prayer sermons, also commemorated the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Sadr and his sister, Bint ol-Hoda, and spoke about the month of Ramadan and the nights of Qadr [when the Koran was revealed to Mohammad].

*IRI Largest Importer of Goods From Dubayy

90AS0046K London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 4

[Text] With its import of significant amounts of goods and merchandise produced in Western industrial countries and Japan through the open Port of Dubayy in 1987, the Islamic Republic gained first rank among the countries importing goods from that free port.

According to a newspaper published in Dubayy, in 1989, a total of $420 million in goods and merchandise was purchased from merchants in the free Port of Dubayy and transported to Iran. A comparison of the value of goods purchased by the Islamic regime last year with that of 1988 indicates an increase of about 10 percent. Economic experts in the Persian Gulf region believe that if the value of the goods smuggled between Dubayy and the Islamic Republic were added to the official figures announced by the officials on trade statistics of that port, the value of Iranian imports from Dubayy last year would reach twice the above-mentioned figure, that is, about $850 million.

Experts also announced that at the present time, Dubayy and several other free ports on the Persian Gulf coast have become thriving centers for the transaction of various smuggled goods produced in Iran, especially handwoven carpets, caviar, pistachios, and other traditional goods. One carpet merchant revealed some time ago that in the past six months, the amount of Iranian carpets exported through Dubayy and several other free ports to the buying countries in Europe, America, and the Far East far surpasses the value of carpets transported officially from Iran to other importers of Iranian handwoven carpets.

AL-BAYAN, a Dubayy newspaper, published some time ago a statistical report on the Dubayy export activities, explaining the reasons for the increase in exports to Iran in that port and wrote: "The end of the eight-year war between the Islamic Republic and Iraq, and the need for the Islamic regime to import the people's necessities, and steps towards the reconstruction of the destruction resulting from the war have played an essential role in making the market for the export of goods to Iran thrive.

The above-mentioned newspaper offered a list of the major importers of goods from Dubayy and pointed out that at the present, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Singapore, the Federal Republic of Germany, Kuwait, India, Japan, the United States, and Oman are the largest purchasers of goods offered at this free port, after the Islamic Republic.

The same publication announced in its report that during 1989, Dubayy officially exported goods at a total value of $1.77 billion. Compared to the value of exports in 1988, these exports mark an increase of about 30 percent.

Dubayy, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and several other exporting ports on the Persian Gulf have in the past 20 years become thriving markets for the transaction of goods produced in the Western and industrial countries of Canada, the United States, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and several other producing countries in the Far East. In addition, a major part of the commercial activities in the above-mentioned ports involves the buying and selling of various goods which have been smuggled into other countries and purchased at prices far lower than those in the original producing country and sent to the consumer countries. At the present time, smuggled goods from Iran, particularly carpets, caviar, pistachios, and dry goods comprise some of the major items offered in Dubayy.

*All 1959-1966 Birth Certificates Reissued

90AS0046L London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 4

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Rahmani, deputy minister of interior, by reporters in late April; place not given]

[Text] "All old birth certificates for males born from 1338-1345 [21 March 1959-20 March 1966] are no longer valid, and the new birth certificates must be from "The Islamic Republic." Also, all those born in 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975] and later must have Islamic Republic birth certificates. Birth certificates other than those of the Islamic Republic are invalid for those years."

The above statement was made early last week by 'Ali Akbar Rahmani, deputy minister of interior and head of the registration organization, to representatives of the mass media. In another part of his interview, he said: "So far, more than 30 million birth certificates have been issued by the Islamic Republic. If cooperation continues, by the end of 1372 [20 March 1994] all old birth certificates will have been changed."

The deputy minister of interior of the Islamic Republic and head of the registration organization added: "In 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], 7,000,260 Islamic Republic birth certificates were issued to people, and the registration of life events in 1368 indicates that births in 1368 [1989-90] decreased by about eight percent compared to 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], marriages increased by 16 percent, and divorce decreased by two percent."

In his interview, the above-mentioned official asked the people to change their birth certificates within the announced deadlines, because delays result in a backlog of work to be processed.

'Ali Akbar Rahmani told the Islamic Republic radio and television reporter that his organization needs funds for information-gathering projects, and if the trend in the ratification of funds for the above-mentioned organization continues in the following years to be similar to that of this year (1369) [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], with the closing of some of the projected activities, the Five-Year Plan of the registration organization will not be accomplished for 10 years.

The deputy minister of interior pointed out that collection of data on the identity of people, recording life events, providing basic human information for the government, and rapid collection, circulation, and processing of information require fundamental changes in the registration system of the country. He said: "The creation of a population data base is not only for the registration organization but is needed by all ministries, organizations, and individuals in the society. By starting this base, of which 90 percent of the construction has been completed, the government's need for basic human data will be provided for."

The above-mentioned official added: "We now have 75 million documents about the people at our disposal, which cannot be used for information in the traditional fashion. Naturally, the computer center of this organization is a strong base of support for preserving these document and interpreting the information."

*Afghans Reportedly Involved in Drug Smuggling

90AS0069C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 May 90 p 3

[Text] With the intensification of the antinarcotics campaign and the execution of drug procurement and distribution gangs and networks, more than 600 kilograms of narcotics were seized by the revolutionary guards of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee of Region 16 of Naziabad this week in south Tehran.

Mr. 'Abbas Sha'bani, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee of Region 16 of Naziabad, gave an interview during an inspection by journalists of the confiscated narcotics in which he announced the above. He added: Recently, with intelligence supplied to the revolutionary guards of this committee by the ever-present-on-the-scene people, the base of a narcotics procurement and distribution gang was identified and after continued observation and pursuit by the antinarcotics team of Committee 16, a vehicle was stopped and its driver was arrested. In the interrogation by the revolutionary guards of this committee, the hiding place of two vehicles was identified.

He added: After the preliminary investigations, both drivers admitted bringing large quantities of narcotics in the two vehicles into the area to this same gang of smugglers.

He said: In various hiding places in the vehicle were found 446 kilograms of opium residue and 17 kilograms of hashish.

He noted that after the confiscation of narcotics from the homes of the members of this gang, three of whom were Afghanis and one of whom was a woman, two video machines, a quantity of cash and gold, a vehicle and a Peykan automobile were confiscated.

He discussed the narcotics smuggling gang's method of operation and its distribution in Tehran. He said: The prime suspect was arrested recently along with her husband in connection with the purchase and sale of narcotics. She gave the confiscated narcotics to her husband and he was arrested. After her release from prison, the woman was arrested again by one of the Tehran Province committees and was turned over to the anti-narcotics prosecutor along with the confiscated substances, and after nine months in prison she was released again.

She took advantage of the freedom to marry her narcotics dealer, an Afghan, resumed her activities, and was arrested again.

In conclusion, he added: To avoid identification, the defendant had several houses and has also lived in a rental house. She used the narcotics income to purchase two trailers, a Peykan automobile, and other equipment, all of which were confiscated and turned over to the judicial authorities.

*Non-Oil Exports Pass $1.1 Billion Mark

90AS0069B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 2 May 90 p 14

[Text] Tehran—14 Ordibehesht—24 April—The value of the nation's non-petroleum exports last year reached the $1.1 billion mark, 31 percent of which came from hand-woven carpets.

A study of the nation's foreign commerce statistics for 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] published by the Customs Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran shows that in that year more than 1,445 tons of various non-petroleum goods valued at 78.504 billion rials, or $1.121 billion, were exported. This represents an increase of 23.1 percent by weight and 16.9 percent by value over the same period the previous year.

Despite this increase in the weight and value of non-petroleum exports, the nation's exports still do not compare favorably and acceptably with imports. The statistics show that the ratio of imports to non-petroleum exports is 93 to seven, and such a ratio is a reminder of the need for good planning for the curret year and future years. The hope exists that in view of the Five-Year Plan which has been put in place this deficiency will be redressed.

Of the non-petroleum exports over the last 12 months, three of the nation's traditional export items, meaning hand-woven wool carpets, pistachios and pistachio meats, and various hides, made up 62.5 percent of the total value.

*New Appointments Announced 2 May

90AS0069A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 2 May 90 p 3

[Text]

- His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, has issued an order appointing Hoseyn Dehqan as commander of the revolutionary guard Air Force.

The text of the order from the leader of the Islamic revolution is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty

Brother Hoseyn Dehqan

As proposed by the central command of the revolutionary guard and in view of your record and experiences in that revolutionary organization, while accepting the resignation of Mr. Musa Zeqan and with thanks for his abundant support, I appoint you commander of the revolutionary guard air force so that as you maintain worthy discipline you can meet the noble requirements of that force in the framework of its responsibilities and equip it to defend the Islamic nation.

I ask Almighty God for your success.

[Signed Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 24 April 1990.

As proposed by a representative of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in the revolutionary guard ground forces and by the order of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Mohammad 'Araqi, acting representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the revolutionary guard, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Shirazi has been given responsibility for the unit for propaganda and puolications of the ground forces of the revolutionary guard of the Islamic revolution.

In an order issued by Dr. Iraj Fazel, minister of health, Dr. Mohsen Dalvandi has been appointed supervisor of the Arak University of Medical Sciences and acting director of the Central Province Regional Health and Treatment Organization.

Likewise in an order from Dr. Seyyed Shahabeddin Sadr, cultural deputy and secretary of the Ministry of Health and Treatment's Supreme Islamic Culture Committee, Hasan Aqajani 'Aliabadi has been appointed secretary of the Islamic Culture Committee at the Hamadan Medical Sciences University.

In an order from Mayor Karbaschi of Tehran, Amir Naser Nuri-Jamshidi has been appointed as the new acting director of the Tehran Traffic Organization.

In an order by Dr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, Engineer Mehdi 'Ali Akbar has been appointed to a four-year term as chief of the Production Unit Property Expansion Financial Organization.

Heshmatollah 'Aziziyan, in an order from Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, has been appointed consultant to the minister.

In separate orders from Engr. Majid Maleki-Tabar, acting director of the Islamic Republic Postal Company, Mohammad Faraji has been appointed supervisor of the Budget and Organizations Office; Mohsen Forutan has been appointed supervisor of the General Services and Provisions Office; Seyfollah Za'imi has been appointed supervisor of the Legal Office; and Engr. Mohammad Ebrahim has been appointed supervisor of this company's Buildings, Organization, and Equipment Office.

In an order from Engr. Mahluji, minister of mines and metals, engineer Hasan 'Arfani-Asiyayi was appointed executor of the Mobarakeh Steel Complex Project, retaining his position as consultant to the minister on steel affairs.

By order of Dr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance and chief of the General Assembly of the Iran Insurance Corporation, Mohammad 'Alirani, Yusef Abadi, and Mohammad Fayaz Barchin were appointed non-voting members of this company's board of directors.

Nepal & Bhutan

King Announces Amnesty for Political Prisoners

BK1805045890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] In Nepal, King Birendra yesterday announced a general amnesty for political prisoners in the country. Most of the prisoners were jailed for violating the ban on political parties. A statement issued from the palace said that the king took the decision on the advise of the prime minister, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

Party Leaders Press for New Constitution

BK1905115890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1125 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 19 (AFP)—The general secretary of the Nepali Congress, Girija Prasad Koirala, accused the coalition government of failing to live up to its responsibilities and allowing tensions to continue in the capital. The coalition should work to ease tensions that are causing people to close factories and demand double wages, Mr. Koirala said on a Kathmandu talk show Friday night [18 May].

The coalition government is made up of the Nepali Congress, the largest political faction, and the United Left Front, an alliance of seven factions in the Nepal Communist Party.

Mr. Koirala called on his leftist counterparts to watch for elements trying to slow the coalition government's moves to implement democracy. "The Nepalese people should keep receiving power from his majesty the king and the king should accept the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers of the coalition government," the general secretary said.

He said the existing Constitution ought to be suspended and an interim act should be drafted as soon as possible. "The sovereign power should be vested in the people by the new constitution," Mr. Koirala said. "A constitution which does not vest power in the people would not be acceptable to the people."

Mr. Koirala said democracy is still fragile in the country and the people should keep that fact in mind when the government is criticized.

Speaking on the same show, the general secretary of the Nepal Communist Party, Man Mohan Adhikari, also said the new constitution must give power to the people. "Sovereignty must rest with the Nepalese people in the new constitution and the Nepalese people will reject it if anything short of it," he said.

Without mentioning the monarchy, Mr. Adhikari said "all powers should be transferred to the cabinet immediately through the interim charter." He said the communist parties will help the interim government carry out its goals.

Mr. Adhikari also demanded the arrest of former Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and former chairman of the now-dissolved panchayat system, Navaraj Subedi. "If corrupt and guilty people are not brought to (justice) the people will not look upon the government favourably," he said.

Ganesh Man Singh Speaks to Over 150,000

BK2105005190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1752 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 20 (AFP)—More than 150,000 people have turned out for a speech by Nepali Congress leader Ganesh Man Singh in Bhaktapur township, the cradle of Nepal's pro-democracy movement, local press reports said Sunday [20 May]. Mr. Singh was quoted as saying that the interim coalition government of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai was determined to curb corruption and eliminate political oppression in Nepal. Accepting a letter of congratulations Saturday [19 May] from the Bhaktapur Distict Nepali Congress and Marxist party workers, Mr. Singh emphasized the urgent need to maintain law and order in order to carry out governmental responsibilities.

"How can the interim government fulfill its obligation if people take the law in their own hands," he asked. "People should refrain from misbehaving or smearing black soot on others in revenge," Mr. Singh said.

Speaking at the same function, Girija Prasad Koirala, the party's general secretary, warned that "attempts were being made to disrupt law and order situation at various places and sabotage democracy."

Mr. Singh said "in accordance with the demands of the people, the coalition government had immediately dissolved the panchayat structure and dismissed zonal commissioners."

The panchayat, or council system, had banned political parties for 30 years before King Birendra, yielding to the pressure of a two-month pro-democracy movement in which hundreds of Nepalese died, dissolved the system in April and allowed the opposition to form a coalition government.

Mr. Singh said the government's first priority was law and order, the second was drafting a constitution delineating the king's power, and the third was preparing for parliamentary elections. Mr. Singh strongly refuted demands for the calling of a constitutional assembly, describing as a "plot" to delay the forthcoming election, saying general elections in the early 1950s had been delayed for the same reason.

Bhaktapur was the township where on February 19 the Nepalese first began fighting against the panchayat system. Police firing killed at least six people and wounded more than 12. The incident sparked the movement during which at least 500 people were estimated to have died.

Communists Said To Play Growing Role

BK1905065090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0424 GMT 19 May 90

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Patan, Nepal, May 19 (AFP)—In the narrow streets and alleys of Patan, once a township and now effectively a Kathmandu suburb, red banners emblazoned with the hammer and sickle hang over busy stalls selling tourist curios. Alongside them are the starred flags of the Nepali Congress, coincidentally also red and contrasting sharply with the gold domes of old Hindu palaces and the dark carved wood of centuries-old houses.

Patan became a focal point of the pro-democracy movement which triumphed here last month as a result of an unprecedented pact between the Congress and most of the country's diverse communist parties. Now with seven communist parties in the United Leftist Front (ULF), the junior partner of Nepal's first coalition government, many wonder how strong they are, what they seek and why they are apparently more numerous than previously thought.

No straight answer in terms of figures or percentages is forthcoming here from the communists themselves or from diplomats or politicians of other parties. But there is a general consensus that the ULF and the hardline communist United National People's Movement (UNPM), which has stayed outside the coalition, if counted together, would probably run a close second to Congress in numbers.

One reason for the general ignorance about Nepalese communists, observers and residents of Kathmandu say, is that for the past 30 years the royal palace and members of the partyless panchayat system ousted by the pro-democracy movement did not regard them as a threat. They saw their main enemy as the Congress—overtly political, active, popular, well-established and more often than not supported by New Delhi.

"We fed a snake milk," said Ravindra Nath Sharma, a liberal former member of the National Panchayat or Parliament, ruefully speaking of the panchayat's pandering to the communists in a bid to draw support away from the Congress. "When we realized, when the palace realized, it was too late. I personally never hated the communists, but it is our foolishness, we thought we were using them. In fact they were using us as a springboard."

Mr. Sharma, who hopes to launch a party of former liberal panchayat members, also says he expects very few panchayat members to try to join the left. He agrees with most estimates that the communists are strongest among the urban youth, professionals and teachers and geographically in the Kathmandu valley area, with "pockets" of strong influence in the Terai, the plains bordering India.

Born, like most political movements here, in India in 1949 with some of their founding members Nepalis who had joined the Indian Communist Party, the first Nepalese Communist Party was outlawed between 1952 and 1956. And like other Asian communist parties, it suffered splits over Khrushchev, and the Sino-Soviet split, before being banned along with all other Nepalese political parties in 1960. Under the ban, its members went in and out of jail and exile, its splits multiplied, with one of the main fault lines over the question of Nepal's monarchy. In the late 1960s a new faction following the Maoist Indian Naxalite uprising was born.

Late last year when the question arose of possible unity in a pro-democracy movement with the Nepali Congress, most communists not only agreed but also thought they had to take a back seat, says veteran communist Maha Mohan Adhikari, 69, who has spent a total of 17 years in jail. Times had changed, they felt, with the left and right in neighbouring India uniting to oust Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr. Adhikari said a communist-led movement would not have received backing from India, "and in Nepal you can never discount India or the West," Nepal's major aid donors. The unity between the two will hold, because "if this effort fails because of foolish acts, the king and the radical elements will prevail," he added.

Mr. Adhikari says Nepal is "out of the mainstream" of world politics, adding that awareness of the partyless system's failure spawned the pro-democracy movement. "It's not left or right, it's minimum change that people want," he said.

He calls the left a divided force, but one that cannot be ignored, and adds that the Congress is better entrenched.

But Mr. Adhikari also wonders, with a grin, "how long will they (the young communists) listen to the old men?"

Babu Ram Bhattarai (no relation to Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai), the spokesman of the United Nepalese People's Movement (UNPM), whose wife was arrested at a seminar during the pro-democracy movement, and who himself went underground to avoid arrest, is more typical of Nepal's younger communists. Converted while a student at New Delhi's Jawarhalal Nehru University, Mr. Bhattarai, 36, also declines to estimate the communists' numbers other than to agree their base is in the universities and hospitals and among urban youth. He laments the communists' lack of a rural base, save in the Terai, and says when promised elections are held, probably sometime in May 1991, their vote base is unlikely to be very strong.

"The UNPM right now has a very important role in the movement," says a veteran Nepali political observer. "They constitute the Damoclean sword, the threat of a republican movement should the hardliners in the palace or the panchayat think they can make a comeback."

Says Mr. Bhattarai: "We of course do not support the monarchy, but this is not the time for revolutionary change."

Pakistan

Robert Gates Meets Ishaq Khan, Delivers Letter

Bush Expresses Concern

BK2005153590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] The American special emissary, Robert Gates, who is also the deputy adviser on national security, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad this afternoon and handed over a letter from President Bush. In his message, President Bush expressed the concern of the United States on the deteriorating situation in South Asia and stressed the need for taking steps to defuse tension in the region.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Pakistan does not want war, and its support to the Kashmiri people is sheerly political. He referred to the various proposals made by Pakistan to the Indian Government to avert the dangers of war. The president stressed that if a durable solution is to be established in the region, the basic issue of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people should be resolved according to the UN resolutions.

The prime minister's adviser on national security, Iqbal Akhund; and Army chief General Mirza Beg were also present on the occasion.

The American emissary has since left for Delhi.

Spokesman Comments on Visit

BK2005163890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 May 90

[Excerpts] The special American envoy, Mr. Robert Gates, who is also deputy national security adviser, delivered a letter from President Bush to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan when he called on him in Islamabad today. [passage omitted]

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen later that Pakistan appreciated the visit of the U.S. delegation because it showed American interest in bringing down the tension which has been rising in South Asia. He said the American envoy took note of Pakistan's position in the current situation as explained to him by the president, including the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir. He was of the view that the reaction of the envoy was sympathetic.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said the U.S. envoy assured that his country would do anything it could for the relaxation of tension.

He explained that Pakistan had not moved its troops to borders in response to the heavy movement of Indian troops along the cease-fire line and the international borders.

DAWN Editorial

BK1905105790 Karachi DAWN in English 19 May 90 p 7

[Editorial: "American Diplomacy and Kashmiri Reality"]

[Text] Mr. Robert Gates, President Bush's Deputy National Security Adviser, is visiting Islamabad and New Delhi with two purposes in mind: to urge both capitals to exercise restraint over Kashmir and to gain a first-hand appreciation of the situation that he will convey to the American President later on. Revealing this, a White House spokesman in Washington has said that the United States calls on all sides to take steps to restore calm and security and to allow a political dialogue to address the problem of Kashmir. He has also said, "Both India and Pakistan must determine the future of Kashmir peacefully." Since war is the last thing that Pakistan wants, it cannot but welcome this peacemaking mission. Even if Mr. Gates is inclined to read Pakistan a small lecture about the dangers of war and the benefits of peace, he won't find a readier audience than in Islamabad. What response he evokes in New Delhi is a different matter, however, because there is no shortage of Indians who have been stoking themselves into a passion of belligerence ever since the Kashmir uprising began a few months ago. Most of his persuasive skills, therefore, were best reserved for his Indian journey.

At any rate, there are a few things a potential peacemaker must bear in mind. The crisis in Kashmir has not arisen because of any bellicosity or lack of goodwill on

Pakistan's part. It has erupted purely because of the frustrated aspirations of the Kashmiri people. If they themselves had not reached the point of no-return, there is nothing that Pakistan could have done to push them to that extremity. So, while a political dialogue to address the problem of Kashmir is important, it will lead to nothing if it chooses to bypass the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Which means that the State Department is not wholly correct when it says that "India and Pakistan must determine the future of Kashmir peacefully." It forgets the third and most important party to the dispute: the people of Kashmir who have been braving Indian bullets over the past few months in order to uphold their right of self-determination. Even Pakistan's commitment under the Simla Accord to strive for a peaceful settlement of the dispute is predicated upon allowing the Kashmiri people the right to choose their own future. The only dispute Pakistan has with India is that it wants New Delhi to honour its pledge undertaken before the United Nations, to ascertain the wishes of the Kashmiri people through a fair and impartial plebiscite. Pakistan's desire for peace with India and its commitment to seek a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute cannot mean that it should abdicate its principled stand on the issue. For some reason—not exactly inscrutable or mystifying—India finds this difficult to understand.

The United States also needs to realise that the present events in Kashmir are entirely indigenous in character. Indian claims that Pakistan is fomenting unrest across the Line of Control are without substance. It is not within Pakistan's capacity to manipulate or sustain events on such a scale. Nor, even if it wants to, can Pakistan douse the fires of freedom burning in Kashmir. India, understandably, cannot appreciate this point. But outside powers interested in keeping the situation under control must see things in perspective if their prescriptions for peace are not to come unstuck. There is a strong feeling in Washington that Pakistan and India must not go to war. Laudable as this sentiment is, it must not lose sight of the wood for the trees. Just as there can be no real peace in the Middle East without satisfying the aspirations of the Palestinian people, there can be no lasting peace in South Asia without satisfying the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Gilani Says PRC Favors Kashmir Settlement

BK1905092090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, the federal minister for law and justice, has said that China desires that the Kashmir issue be resolved through negotiations in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the Simla agreement. On his return to Islamabad from China yesterday, he told newsmen that China knows and accepts the fact that Pakistan is a peace-loving country that does not want war.

About his visit to China, the justice minister said that the main purpose of the visit was to study China's legal and judicial systems.

State Premier Accuses India in Farooq Death

BK2105135490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1341 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, May 21 (AFP)—The prime minister of Pakistan-administered Kashmir has denounced the killing of a prominent Muslim cleric by gunmen Monday [21 May] in the Indian-held part of Kashmir. Sardar Sikandar Hayat blamed Indian authorities for the "brutal act" of killing Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir State, as India calls its section of the disputed Kashmir.

(It was reported from Srinagar that at least 20 people were killed Monday when police fired on a march of mourners carrying the Muslim prelate's body.)

"This is yet another proof of the inhuman repression let loose by the Indians in the occupied valley," Mr. Hayat said in a statement.

News of the killing of the high priest, or mirwaiz, was received with apparent shock, and came amid polling to elect members to the legislative assembly of Azad (free) Kashmir, as the Pakistan calls the portion of Kashmir it controls.

Mr. Hayat said "the majority Muslim population will avenge the murder when the liberation comes, and that day is not far off."

The mirwaiz, who wielded political clout through his inherited position, was killed early Monday by unidentified gunmen who stormed his fortress-like home and shot him at close range with automatic weapons.

Jammu and Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state.

Pakistan and India have fought two wars over Kashmir.

Source Says Iran Using Hizballah in Kashmir

NC1905182190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Paris, 19 May (MENA)—A French press source said today that Pakistani intelligence authorities are closely monitoring the activities of extremists in Kashmir. The same source added that Iran is using Lebanon's Hizballah to consolidate its influence in this region, which is divided between India and Pakistan. Islamabad insists on annexing this area. The source pointed out that three Hizballah leaders—Subhi al-Tufayli, 'Abbas Musawi, and 'Atif Nabulsi—visited the Kashmir area in March.

Kashmir Leader Disqualified To Contest Elections

BK2005091090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] A full bench of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] high court in Muzaffarabad today disqualified

AJK Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan to contest elections from LA-24 Jammu-6 Rawalpindi. The bench comprising the chief justice, Mr. Justice Abdul Majid Malik; Mr. Justice Syed Zaman Chaudhury, and Mr. Justice Khawaja Mohammad Sayeed in unanimous decision held that they have reached the conclusion that Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan is disqualified to contest or be a member of the AJK legislative member from the said constituency. The judgment added that the appearance of his name in the electoral roll from that constituency is of no legal effect.

Supreme Court Stays High Court Order

BK2005164890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] On an appeal from [Azad Kashmir Prime Minister] Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, a bench of the Azad Kashmir supreme court has suspended operation of the high court decision disqualifying Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan from contesting election from Constituency LA-34 Jammu-6 Rawalpindi. The bench comprising the acting chief justice, Mr. Justice Sardar Faiz Mohammad Khan, and Mr. Justice Basharat Ahmad Sheikh accepted the petition from Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan for leave to appeal and converted it into a regular appeal. The court fixed 27th of this month for argument.

Seven Die, 40 Hurt in Lahore Bombing

BK1805162490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] A bomb exploded in Bhati Gate in Lahore this evening. Reports say at least seven people were killed and about 40 injured in the explosion.

Five Die in 'Indiscriminate' Sindh Shootings

BK2005033990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Five persons were killed and nine others injured in indiscriminate shooting in various parts of Hyderabad city and Latifabad subdivision. A press note issued by the district magistrate last night says many persons involved in various cases were arrested.

Meanwhile, the Hyderabad commissioner has described as baseless the report that poisoned drinking water is being supplied in Hyderabad and Latifabad. He said the laboratory testing proved that it was only a rumor.

Curfew is being relaxed in Hyderabad from 0600 for two hours today.

In Karachi, curfew will be relaxed in Malir and Malir Extension police station areas from 0600 to 1900 today.

10 More Killed 20 May

BK2105035490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] In Pakistan, 10 more persons were gunned down in Hyderabad city in the Sindh Province yesterday as ethnic clashes and sniper shooting continued for the seventh consecutive day. The death toll in the current outbreak of violence has risen to 40. The Army has taken control of most parts of the city where curfew has been imposed.

Reports say that the [Sindh] information minister, Syed Navid Qamar, was manhandled when he visited a camp set up for the displaced persons. An attempt to kidnap him was foiled.

Meanwhile, it is reported from Peshawar that about 100 Afghan refugees attacked an Austrian relief agency and looted the premises.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Misses Talks in 'Apparent Protest'

BK1905122290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 19 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's powerful Tamil rebel group stayed away from a government-sponsored meeting here Saturday [19 May] in apparent protest over participation by a rival group, officials and participants said. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) did not give a reason for their non-participation in the all-party conference. But on Tuesday [15 May], it strongly criticised the government's action in initiating a dialogue with the rival Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

The LTTE has been participating regularly in the conference as an "observer" since President Ranasinghe Premadasa convened it in September at the height of a violent anti-government campaign by Sinhalese rebels. The conference is aimed at finding solutions to Sri Lanka's problems.

The EPRLF, which controlled the Tamil-majority Northeastern Provincial Council then, attended the first meeting of the conference but boycotted subsequent ones because it questioned the sincerity of the government. However, the EPRLF accepted a government suggestion at Tuesday's meeting that the group should take its 19-point demands on devolution of powers to the minority Tamils at the conference.

The LTTE had reacted angrily to the government-EPRLF talks, branding it an "insult to the Tamils as well as Sinhalese." "The government is holding talks with a group that wanted to mortgage the island to a foreign aggressive power," it said in a statement in the northern town of Jaffna on Wednesday [16 May].

The EPRLF supported a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace agreement that sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign in the island's North and East, and the deployment of Indian troops in the region under it. The LTTE had repudiated the pact and had been carrying on a bloody bush war against the Indian troops until they were completely pulled out in March.

"The talks between the government and the EPRLF have created hatred and suspicion in the minds of the people," the LTTE statement said.

Meanwhile, a regional leader of the LTTE has criticised the Sri Lankan Government for "acting in the same manner as India did." LTTE political wing leader for Batticaloa district, S. Karikalan, was quoted by Colombo's leading Tamil daily VIRAKESARI on Friday [18 May] as saying the future political situation in the Northeast was "uncertain" in the light of the talks between the government and the EPRLF. "We think that Sri Lanka is acting in the same manner as India acted. Everything went haywire when India held talks with others while talking to us. Sri Lanka is acting on the same lines at present," he said.

The LTTE, which has taken virtual control of the Northeast after the pull-out by Indian troops, has been holding peace talks with the government since April 1989. Sources close to the LTTE in Jaffna said the LTTE was likely to pull out of the peace talks as well to register its protest over the government-EPRLF dialogue.

LTTE Calls for Work Stoppage To Protest Arrest

BK2005134490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 20 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 20 (AFP)—A powerful Tamil rebel group has called for a one-day work stoppage in Sri Lanka's northeast Monday [21 May] to protest against the police detention of an upcountry plantations leader in central Sri Lanka. Sources close to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said Sunday [20 May] that the call for a one-day hartal (work stoppage) had appeared in Tamil newspapers in the rebel stronghold of northern Jaffna. The hartal was to "protest atrocities committed by the Sinhala army on our brothers in the central hills," an LTTE statement said Sunday, referring to the arrest by security forces of Upcountry People's Front (UPF) leader, P. Chandrasekaran.

A UPF spokesman said Sunday that police had assured the party that Mr. Chandrasekaran, held for the past six days, would be released Monday. The UPF said its leader was to have launched a protest campaign against Colombo's decision to repatriate about 100,000 plantation workers of Indian origin to India. The detention of the popular upcountry leader has caused tension in the plantations in central Nuwara Eliya District, where thousands of Indian estate workers are employed.

Meanwhile, some 20 UPF supporters were continuing an indefinite fast for a third day demanding Mr. Chandrasekeran release, the UPF spokesman said.

The LTTE's call for a work stoppage comes a few weeks after its political wing condemned the repatriation move by the Sri Lankan Government.

India has said that repatriation should be done concurrently with the return of Sri Lankans now in India. Thousands of Sri Lankans, mostly Tamils, have been living in India since a bloody ethnic conflict in 1983 forced them to flee the island.

The LTTE, which fought Indian troops who were deployed in the northeast to crush a Tamil separatist rebellion, has said it condemned the forcible repatriation of the Indian workers. The group has said that all plantation Tamils (of Indian origin) were people of Sri Lanka and should be granted citizenship immediately.

Plantations Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told parliament Friday [18 May] that the repatriation process would be expedited and matters connected with the rehabilitation of these Indian citizens was for India to decide.

Meanwhile, the LTTE's political wing leader for eastern Batticaloa District, S. Karikalan, was quoted in THE SUNDAY TIMES, an English-language weekly, as telling reporters in Jaffna that the group was ready to help Indian estate workers who wanted to settle in the northeast, home to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. He said the LTTE, which virtually controls the northeastern region since the departure of the Indian troops, would not stand by and watch a situation where the Indian workers "would be forcibly sent back to India or otherwise subjected to repression."